

US President talks of global democratic revolution

America strong: Reagan

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (AP): President Reagan, in a State of the Union address brimming with optimism, proclaimed an American economic and military reawakening and vowed to push to the end for US support of rebel movements in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Seeking a fresh start with Congress, Reagan invited both Democratic and Republican leaders to the White House today to discuss legislative agenda.

The President called during the nationally broadcast speech yesterday for new assistance to Contra rebels battling the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua and for US support of democracies elsewhere.

Dismissed

In delivering his final State of the Union address before stepping down next year after serving two full terms, Reagan sounded the same upbeat tone that has marked previous addresses. He talked of an "economic and social revolution of hope" in the United States and "global democratic revolution" around the world.

He said the US is "strong, prosperous, at peace" and asked Congress to help make his final



President Reagan, flanked by Vice President George Bush, as he gives his State of the Union address. (Reuters wirephoto)

year in office "the best of eight". But Democrats immediately dismissed much of the speech as irrelevant.

"We've come to the end of an era," said Senate majority leader Robert C. Byrd. "The 'feel-good' slogans have gone flat with time."

Plans

Reagan promised to go ahead with plans to submit to Congress tomorrow a request for new assistance for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, saying "the struggle has extra meaning because that nation is so near our own borders."

He asked for quick Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Anthony M. Kennedy, sought prompt ratification of the US-Soviet medium-range missile treaty and offered a mocking critique of the congressional budget-making process that even brought laughs from some of the lawmakers.

"Congress shouldn't send another one of these," Reagan said, holding aloft a thick stack of papers he said represented budget bills. "And if you do, I will not sign it."

But Democratic leaders declared Reagan will not be able to set the national agenda in his final year in office.

House Speaker Jim Wright said Reagan has failed to do enough to protect Americans' economic interests.

North Korea accused of terrorism

Japan slaps sanctions

TOKYO, Jan 26, (Reuters): Japan imposed sanctions against North Korea today, accusing Pyongyang of destroying a South Korean airliner and pledging to help prevent any attempt by the North to disrupt the Seoul Olympics.

Chief cabinet secretary Keizo Obuchi said in a statement the sanctions would include stricter control of contacts between Japan and North Korea, a ban on all flights between the two countries and restrictions on shipping and visiting North Korean sailors.

Obuchi said Japan was certain communist North Korea was behind the bombing of a Korean Air Lines jet last November that killed all 115 people on board.

"Japan is convinced that the incident was caused by organised terrorism from North Korea,"

Obuchi said. Japan's NHK television network quoted a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry as saying: "The sanctions announced by the Japanese government slander our country."

Obuchi said the sanctions would be maintained until after September's Seoul Olympics and then reconsidered in light of North Korea's actions.

Contacts

Japan does not have any diplomatic relations with North Korea but the curbs on contact would apply to meetings between envoys in another country. There are no regular flights between the two countries but flights to and from Japan which included a stop in Pyongyang would no longer be permitted. Some 170 North Korean ships

visited Japanese ports in 1986.

Asked what evidence Japan had based its decision upon, Obuchi said: "The government has become fully convinced that it was an organised act of terrorism by North Korea... by conducting an overall and prudent examination from every angle of the affair."

A man and a woman carrying fake Japanese passports left the plane hours before its destruction, and the woman later confessed to having planted a bomb on board on the orders of Kim Jong-Il, son of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung.

Last week, the United States also said it had decided North Korea was responsible for the destruction of the airliner and placed the Pyongyang government on its blacklist of terrorist nations.



Whitney Houston holds up one of her two trophies she won at the 15th Annual Music Awards. (Reuters wirephoto)

Travis sweeps musical awards

LOS ANGELES, Jan 26, (AP): Country singer Randy Travis swept his category last night at the 15th Annual American Music Awards, taking four trophies while two statues each went to Anita Baker, Whitney Houston and Paul Simon.

Travis, a dishwasher and cook before he got his show-business break, won favourite country album for Always and Forever, favourite country vocalist, and two awards for the single Forever and Ever, Amen — favourite country single and favourite country video.

He won in all categories for which he was nominated. "I don't know why things have gone so well. We just came along at the right time," said Travis, a leader in the return to traditional country music. "Anything like this is a boost to someone's career. When I first came to Nashville, I got turned down by everybody in town — several times."

After winning his fourth award for vocalist, Travis said, "I thought we might get one. I sure didn't expect four. That last one was really a shock."

Miss Baker won favourite female soul-rhythm and blues singer and favourite album in the same category for her nearly two-year-old Rapture LP.

"I really expected Whitney (Houston) to win," Miss Baker told reporters after winning favourite singer. "We talked about this backstage and we agreed she would win. We have a mutual admiration society."

Miss Houston did win favourite pop-rock female vocalist and her I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me) won favourite single in the same category.

"This is outrageous," she shouted joyfully when she won her second trophy. Last year, Miss Houston won seven American music awards.

Reba McEntire won the favourite female vocalist in the country category.

Paul Simon won favourite pop male vocalist, and his Graceland, won favourite pop-rock album. Simon won a Grammy for the album in 1987.

Michael Jackson won favourite soul rhythm and blues single for Bad. Jackson had won 11 previous American music award trophies. Neither Simon nor Jackson were on hand to accept their awards last night.

World AIDS summit opens in London

UK announces \$8m grant

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): The first world summit on AIDS opened today with an appeal by Britain's Princess Anne for international cooperation on waging war against the fatal disease.

The British government also announced a £4.5 million-pound (\$8.1 million) grant for combating AIDS in developing nations.

Health ministers from 122 countries and senior advisers from 28 others gathered for the three-day meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre opposite Westminster Abbey. It is sponsored by the World Health Organisation, an arm of the United Nations.

Dropping her prepared text in favour of stronger language, the Queen's daughter said: "The global response to AIDS has been characterised by series of delays."

"World summits are not quick or easy to organise and don't always produce results. Please make this one work. Make this summit be the forerunner of

the most genuine international cooperation ever seen."

Speaking after her, WHO Director-General Dr Halldan Mahler vowed the organisation "will not run away from AIDS."

Commitments

He said the health ministers had the "responsibility for ensuring the political commitments of your governments as a whole in the fight against AIDS."

Mahler said that by uniting under WHO "courageously and vigorously, we will demonstrate that a global effort can, yes, will, stop AIDS."

The Princess said educating people about the disease was the key to stopping its spread. "Ignorance in this case definitely is not bliss," she said.

She said millions of people were depending on the gathered health officials.

"Don't underestimate the long-term effects of the virus. You can put people on the moon. You can eradicate smallpox."

Gay judge quits after revelations

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters): Britain's judiciary accepted the resignation of a homosexual judge after a mass-circulation newspaper printed explicit letters he wrote to a male lover which it obtained from an attempted blackmail.

Crown court recorder Martin Bowley, 51, offered to quit last week after failing in a legal action to stop the tabloid daily Sun from publishing the material.

A statement from the office of the Lord Chancellor, who heads the judicial system, said Bowley was told on Monday that his resignation had been accepted.

The publication of revelations about Bowley's sex life, which did not infringe any British law, angered fellow judges and prompted renewed calls for legislation to protect the privacy of the individual.

Other newspapers were sharply critical of The Sun, which was accused by the liberal Guardian of contemptible and hypocritical behaviour.

The Sun's front page story headlined "Spanking judge quits" appeared last Wednesday and contained extracts of letters Bowley sent to a man in his 20s who was described as his "sex slave."

Kidnapped attorney general found dead

BOGOTA, Jan 26, (Reuters): Colombia's Attorney General was found dead last night, eight hours after being kidnapped apparently by drug traffickers fighting extradition to the United States.

The bullet-riddled corpse of Carlos Mauro Hoyos, handcuffed and blindfolded, was discovered on a farm near the spot where he was ambushed early Monday on his way to the airport in Medellin, acting Attorney General Ignacio Arboleda told reporters.

At about the same time, leading politician Andres Pastrana, kidnapped eight days ago, recovered his freedom when police surrounded the farm where he was held in the mountain village of El Retiro, about 32 km south of Medellin.

The body of Hoyos, aged 42, was found in the same village and Pastrana, candidate for mayor of Bogota, the Colombian capital, told reporters his captors, none of whom were arrested, had told him about plans to kidnap Hoyos.

In a communique made public on Sunday setting out conditions for Pastrana's release, the kidnappers declared "total war" against Colombians.

The communique was signed by the "extraditables," meaning those under threat of extradition, the same group that issued a communique in late November threatening to kill Colombian political leaders if alleged drug kingpin Jorge Luis Ochoa was extradited to the United States.

Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city, is headquarters of the country's most powerful drug barons, believed responsible for some 70 per cent of the cocaine that enters the United States.

Officials had feared for Hoyos' life since blood was found on his briefcase in his official car. Two of his bodyguards died in the shootout with about 10 gunmen who used four vehicles, authorities said.

Hoyos is the highest justice official to die at the hands of drug traffickers since Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla was shot dead on a Bogota street in 1984.

By Ashraf Shad

THE Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain has accused the drug mafia and its patrons, the police and an orthodox religious political party of ethnic violence in Karachi.

In an exclusive interview conducted in Karachi recently, the MQM leader told the Arab Times that the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan was responsible for the growth of drug and arms trade, saying the drug mafia wanted to turn Karachi into the main heroin-trafficking centre in order to capture the international drug market.

He claimed the mafia has the full backing of bureaucracy and Karachi administration.

The successful campaign launched by the MQM helped prevent heroin from reaching every home in Karachi and that is why the mafia considers the MQM the main hindrance in the drug trade," Altaf Hussain said.

He said the planned riots in mohajir-dominated areas in Karachi were planned by the mafia and an orthodox religious

streets of Dhaka apparently to scare people into staying at home during the strike.

Police said offices, banks and shops across the country were closed and little transport moved.

Officials said government buses, which have operated in previous strikes, had to stay off the road because fuel-tanker drivers joined the strike.

Grocery shops in Dhaka were emptied because of panic buying last night and some grocers said they were unable to replenish stocks because of the strike.

Strike

Dhaka police said the 12-hour strike passed off peacefully except for some stray incidents near Dhaka University and the Motijheel commercial district.

At least 30 opposition activists trying to organise pickets were hurt when police dispersed them with teargas. A government car was set afire, police said.

In Chittagong, more than 25,000 dock workers stayed at home today. Police with clubs chased stone-throwing protesters and about 50 people, including two policemen, were hurt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zanzibar cabinet

DAR ES SALAAM, Jan 26, (Reuters): Zanzibar's President Idris Abdul Wakil has sacked his chief minister and long time rival Seif Sharif Hamad, replacing him with a career civil servant, Omar Ali Juma.

Wakil dissolved his cabinet last Friday after accusing several unnamed ministers of plotting to overthrow him.

Radio Zanzibar announced Juma's appointment as chief minister last night. It gave no details of other cabinet changes on the autonomous island, which is federated with mainland Tanzania in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Hacked to death

NEW DELHI, Jan 26, (AP): Several people travelling on a passenger bus were hacked to death in southern Andhra Pradesh state yesterday by about 30 assailants in revenge for the killing of a fellow villager, the United News of India reported.

The news agency said the attackers stopped the bus between Umbarhanur and Halvi villages after blocking the road with rocks. It said they first threw chilly powder on the victims and later killed them.

Other passengers were ordered to get down from the bus, UNI reported. The attack was in revenge for the killing of a man during village elections last year by a rival group. UNI quoted police as saying.

Parade of sail

SYDNEY, Jan 26, (Reuters): Tall ships from around the globe were at one grand "parade of sail" today in Sydney harbour, focal point of Australia's 200th anniversary of European settlement.

Woman facing stoning gets a reprieve

ISLAMABAD, Jan 26, (AP): Pakistan's Prime Minister has intervened on behalf of a woman sentenced to be stoned to death for adultery in accordance with Islamic law, officials said yesterday.

S.K. Mahmud, Secretary of the Interior Ministry, said foreign press clippings prompted Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to send a message to him on Sunday to look into the sentence handed down to Shadia Parveen.

The Associated Press reported the plight of the 25-year-old carpenter's daughter last December as she languished in a Karachi prison.

Legally

An Islamic court convicted her last Nov 7 of the capital crime, ruling that she was still legally married to Khushi Mohammed, 52, when she wed her cousin, 35-year-old Mohammed Sarwar.

Shadia maintains Khushi divorced her in 1986 because she could not have children and he wanted to marry another woman. But the court ruled that divorce papers presented by Shadia were forged.

Mahmud said he ordered the inspector-general of prisons in southern Sind province to send court documents to the prime minister.

"Matter most urgent," Mahmud said, reading his message over the telephone.

Meanwhile, an appeal filed by Sarwar is pending before an Islamic federal high court. If it upholds the sentence, the case still can go to Pakistan's Supreme Court, which applies a more lenient penal code drafted by the British during pre-1947 colonial rule.

Police and religious political party playing big role

Drug mafia behind Karachi riots

By Ashraf Shad

THE Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain has accused the drug mafia and its patrons, the police and an orthodox religious political party of ethnic violence in Karachi.

In an exclusive interview conducted in Karachi recently, the MQM leader told the Arab Times that the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan was responsible for the growth of drug and arms trade, saying the drug mafia wanted to turn Karachi into the main heroin-trafficking centre in order to capture the international drug market.

He claimed the mafia has the full backing of bureaucracy and Karachi administration.

The successful campaign launched by the MQM helped prevent heroin from reaching every home in Karachi and that is why the mafia considers the MQM the main hindrance in the drug trade," Altaf Hussain said.

He said the planned riots in mohajir-dominated areas in Karachi were planned by the mafia and an orthodox religious

party so that the MQM could be responsible for ethnic riots.

Hussain strongly denied that his group has anything to do with ethnic tension, saying the MQM firmly believes in non-violence and peaceful campaign to defend the legitimate rights of the mohajir community who migrated in 1947 when Pakistan came into being.

"The MQM has no rivalry with the Punjabi, Pathan, Sindhi or Baluchi communities. It fully respects rights of these communities and want them to respect the rights of the mohajirs."

Hussain also said the MQM strongly opposes any move to separate Karachi from Sind as an independent province, adding he considers the division of Sind province as against the interests of mohajir community.

The MQM emerged as a strong political force after it swept local polls in Karachi and other Sind towns. Its nominees were elected unopposed as the mayor and deputy mayor both in Karachi and Hyderabad.

Hussain vowed that the MQM will contest the next general elections in the country in 1990 but

said he did not decide whether his party will join any political alliance or will fight the elections independently.

But he said the MQM will pursue its campaign for the rights of the mohajir community by joining a coalition government in Sind or by sitting on the opposition benches.

"The political awareness of the mohajir community has broken the monopoly of religious parties who have been exploiting Islam and Pakistan for their political ends," he said.

The MQM leader was highly critical of Pakistan's Afghan policy, saying the government should have helped the poor and needy in the country before inviting the Afghan refugees.

"Instead of opening the border for the Afghans, our government should have opened the border to those Indian Muslims who are suffering from ethnic riots and religious violence."

Hussain said the MQM not only demands due share in the educational institutions and services but also wants share in power on the basis of its huge population.

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Rifaat rules out any competition with Western states

Egypt is not on an arms sales campaign in Gulf: envoy

By Jadranka Porter

EGYPT has spurned suggestions that it has embarked on an arms sales campaign in the Gulf in direct competition with the major Western arms manufacturers.

"We are not here to enter the race or play the role of a salesman," the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, Saeed Mahmoud Rifaat, told the Arab Times in an interview.

But he indicated that Egypt had an edge over its competitors saying that in offering to stand by Kuwait at the time of crisis Egypt is protecting the interests of the Arab nation.

"We are in a position to know the capabilities and needs of Arab countries much better than anyone else," Rifaat said.

Rifaat arrived in Kuwait on Jan 7 following the sudden death of Salahuddin Mohammed Hindawi.

Hindawi was the first Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait following the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Assistance
Prior to his arrival in Kuwait Rifaat served in the information and political analysis department in Egypt's Foreign Ministry. Earlier he had been posted to the Egyptian diplomatic missions in London, Moscow, Brussels and Rabat.

Rifaat identified military



Saeed Mahmoud Rifaat

expertise and training as areas where Egypt could be of particular assistance to Kuwait but pointed out that certain types of weapons are also on offer.

Rifaat contended that Egypt had not sought to compete with other countries but pointed out that some of its weapons compare well in terms of technical requirements with those of other arms manufacturers.

"Egypt has built up a dependable military industry and the quality of its equipment has never been called into question. We have our own markets," said the envoy. Egypt has weapons capable of dealing with various types of missiles, he said, but he declined to say whether these included arms capable of intercepting Silkorm missiles, which

Iran had fired at Kuwait last year.

Intensive political consultations and cooperation in defence between Cairo and Kuwait are an outcome of the diplomatic reconciliation last November which followed an eight-year break caused by Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Rifaat said there are signs that relations among the Arab countries are gaining momentum and efforts are being made to compensate for the lost time.

Realised
"Let's forget all the previous circumstances and commit ourselves to the joint Arab action," said Rifaat.

The Iran-Iraq conflict may have been a chief catalyst but not the only issue that prompted the Arab states to resume relations with Egypt, the envoy said.

"The Arab world has realised that Egypt has always met its obligations towards the Arab states and has observed the Arab Defence Treaty," Rifaat said.

He said that President Hosni Mubarak undertook the Gulf tour to express solidarity with the Gulf states and renew his commitment to help fellow Arabs.

"President Mubarak is a practical man and a firm believer in the Arab-Egyptian relations and in the friendship between our country and Kuwait in particular," said Rifaat.

Specific deals confirming this new phase of cooperation between the two countries will be

hammered out during the forthcoming exchange of visits between Egyptian and Kuwaiti delegations, Rifaat said.

Although Egypt and Kuwait are poised to strengthen its cooperation in areas of diplomacy, defence, economic and cultural activity, the northern African state has not appealed to the Gulf states for help to settle its international debt, Rifaat said.

"Egypt is capable of getting into grips with its debt problem and we have successfully negotiated with the creditor countries to reschedule a portion of our debt," Rifaat said.

Influx
But he stressed that Egypt is keen to encourage foreign investment. He admitted that the joint venture programme had faced problems related to bureaucratic tangles but expressed hope that most Arab investors would show understanding for current efforts to smooth the way toward more efficient running of Egyptian economy.

Rifaat did not envisage a large influx of Egyptians to Kuwait following the diplomatic reconciliation.

"The size of the Egyptian workforce in Kuwait largely depends on the local market situation and I presume it will not change considerably," he said.

There are 175,000 Egyptians currently living in Kuwait.



Lulwa Al Qatami (left) and Salah Al Hashem discuss the role of women in traffic safety.

Focus on women's role in traffic accident control

KUWAIT'S Road Safety Society held its weekly seminar on Monday with the focus on the role of women's societies in traffic accident control and increasing traffic safety awareness.

The society's lawyer Salah Al Hashem confirmed the importance of the role of women in traffic control, saying that about 25 to 30 per cent of the number of motorists in Kuwait are women.

Lulwa Al Qatami, the chairman of the Women's Cultural and Social Society, speaking at the seminar, stressed the importance of the family, school, legal system and private societies in increasing traffic safety awareness. She added that schools give only slight attention to the issue while private societies had failed

to make any significant contribution so far.

A representative of the Girls Club Saherah Al Messad expressed the opinion that female instructors should be provided at the drivers training school to teach women wanting to learn to drive. A questionnaire will also be distributed, she said, by the club which should provide insight into the problem.

Sabah Al Rayes, the chairman of the society, said that accidents caused by women were usually the result of driving mistakes rather than driving too fast. Some women hold their children while driving, he said, which created a distraction of their attention on the road.

Egypt offers agricultural expertise

EGYPT affirmed its readiness to offer research and scientific expertise to upgrade Kuwait's fish and agricultural development, a press statement said yesterday.

The statement, issued at the conclusion of the visit made by director general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij to Egypt between Jan 16-23, said the Kuwaiti official held successful talks with his host Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Lands Reclamation Dr Youssef Wali on the basis of the Egyptian agricultural policy.

During his stay, Sheikh Ibrahim visited many places of interest like fish farms and agricultural research centres.

The two sides agreed on cooperation in the fields of fisheries reclamation of desert lands, animal wealth and other related areas.

Cooperation also includes exchanging visits, scientific and technical training, exchanging scientific data and statistics, in addition to conducting joint research projects, it noted.

Oman's judicial system hailed

MUSCAT, Jan 26, (Kuna): Yemen Arab Republic's Justice Minister Ahmed Mohammed Abdul Rahman and the accompanying delegation left here today after an official visit to Oman, Radio Muscat reported.

In a statement to the radio, the minister said that the outcome of the talks he held with Omani Minister of Justice, Awqaf, and Islamic Affairs Hilal Bin Harib was very fruitful and dealt with cooperation in the justice field.

Hailing the Omani judicial system, the Yemeni official said that Omani courts apply the exact Islamic sharia rules.

Euro-Arab mayors to meet in Morocco

DIRECTOR general of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) Taleb Al Taher said yesterday that a Euro-Arab meeting on the level of mayors will be held in Marrakech, Morocco next October.

The conference will be convened in cooperation between the Kuwait-based ACO and Europe's regions and municipality council which has its main offices in Paris.

Al Taher told Kuna that the organisation sponsored this meeting in realisation of the role played by regional and international bodies for cities and their influence on the public opinion and their connections to decision-makers in world countries.

He said, "the ACO hopes the meeting contributes in correcting images and notions which were created by historic circumstances of each side to the other."

In addition to expressing the Arab view toward the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestinian cause, Al Taher noted that the conference aims at establishing ties between Arab and European city officials and exchanging scientific expertise among the two sides.

Endorsed

The ACO chief said that the organisation's permanent office had endorsed the idea of holding the conference during its 26th session in Damascus last April.

Al Taher said that the organisation was keen since the start to contact the Arab League to get acquainted with its view on convening such an assembly and to cooperate with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alecso) to furnish all possible help to bring the conference to a success.

Modern House exhibition

KUWAIT'S Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khaled will open the Modern House exhibit at the International Fair Grounds in Mishref on Feb 3 with displays of furniture, modern kitchens, carpets, light fixtures and many other items that are part of the modern house.

This year's exhibit, which will cover 6,000 square metres, will feature 80 local and foreign furniture companies from West Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, Afghanistan.

The exhibition will run thru Feb 12.

Painting competition

A PAINTING and elocution competition will be held at the Indian Embassy auditorium on Jan 29 by the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam as part of celebrations of the 40th anniversary of India's Independence and the 10th anniversary of the Samajam.

The painting competition will begin at 10 am and the elocution at 3 pm.

Winners of the painting competition will be presented with Edmund Thomas Clint memorial trophies and winners of the elocution contest with a trophy in memory of the late advocate C.J. Alexander.

Training on report writing

A TRAINING course on report writing organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training began yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by the assistant director-general for training affairs, Homoud Al Mudhaf, and the course's technical coordinator, Dr Kamel Omran.

The course is being attended by a total of 56 employees from the ministries of Education, Oil, Information, Health, Communications and Public Works, as well as from the Public Administration of Shuaiba Industrial Area, General Customs Department, Savings and Credit Bank, Civil Service Commission and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

It will acquaint the students with the correct procedures for preparing and writing reports.

Marine algae

IBRAHIM Hadi, the director of the Environmental Protection Department at Kuwait's Public Health Ministry, said that what appeared to be an oil slick seen recently in Kuwait's territorial waters was, in fact, a concentration of marine algae.

He explained that the colonies of algae rise to the surface of the water at a certain point in their development and that such a concentration was not unusual in Kuwait waters between December and February.

Hadi said that the air-bubbles seen in these drifting colonies were caused by the algae's respiratory process and were not the result of any chemicals in the water.

17 accidents

THERE were 17 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

Three took place in the capital, ten in Ahmadi and four in Jahra.

Workshop on oil pollution in Gulf

ABUDHABI, Jan 26, (AP): Iran and Iraq along with other Gulf countries began a three-day workshop yesterday on oil pollution in the Gulf, the arena of the so-called "tanker war."

Tankers loaded with crude, oil rigs and platforms often come under attack in the Gulf in the spillovers of the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

There has been only one alarming spill in 1982 after an Iraqi air raid on Iran's Nowruz oil field.

Cooperation

The workshop, organised by the United Arab Emirates environmental committee in cooperation with the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment, is to discuss pollution combat methods, conference sources said.

National Day activities

ABDUL Rahman Al Mazroui, the acting Undersecretary of Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Ministry said the ministry is planning for the National Day activities which will begin next month, adding that organ-

isations and youth centres will hold art exhibits, sports events and social festivals. Cooperative societies and charity organisations will also participate in the festivities, he said.

In his inaugural speech, UAE Health Minister Hamad Al Madfa said: "The protection of sea waters in this area from oil pollution is acquiring primary importance among all our countries."

He said this workshop, in which Western experts participate, "will clear the road for more coordination and additional creative efforts and serious work to allow us to travel a new distance toward achieving our goals."



India's Ambassador to Kuwait, N.M. Jha, delivers a speech at the embassy premises after hoisting the flag on the occasion of India's Republic Day. (Photo by Javed Basra)

Honda 88

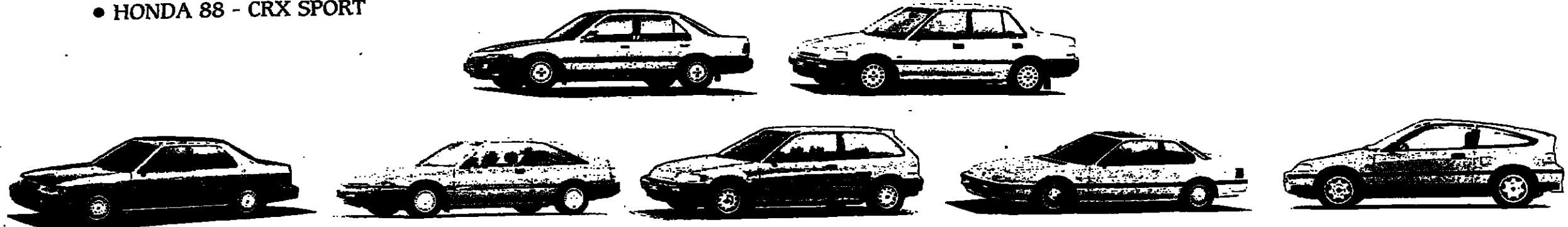
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Saudi Foreign Minister to visit Moscow for Gulf war talks

MOSCOW, Jan 26, (UPI): The Soviet Union announced today that the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, which does not have diplomatic relations, is coming to Moscow for an official visit believed centred on the Gulf war.

Prince Saud Al Faisal will arrive "in the nearest future," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said. An Arab diplomat said the visit was expected by the end of this week.

The visit comes as the Soviet Union is calling for the UN Security Council to convene a meeting of foreign ministers to help organise the Middle East peace conference that has long been sought by the Kremlin.

"We intend to intensify consultations and set out looking for practical ways to defuse the problems that hamper the con-

vocations of the international conference," Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said of the Soviet call for Middle East talks.

Dominant

Gerasimov, speaking at the same news conference, did not identify the subjects to be discussed in the Saudi visit but said the prince would meet both President Andrei Gromyko and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Soviet desire for a Middle East peace conference, which would mark its return to a central role in peace talks, was certain to be an agenda item during the Saudi visit.

However, a senior Arab source said the Gulf war would dominate the meetings, although other subjects such as the Middle East conference or economic

interests of the world's two biggest oil producers might also be discussed.

Although Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union do not have diplomatic relations, contacts between the two countries have been increasing steadily in the past couple of years.

Arab sources said the Saudi Foreign Minister was bypassing the lack of diplomatic relations this time by coming as the representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups all the Arab states along the Gulf.

Gerasimov said he was coming as "a guest of the Soviet government," but said the initiative for the visit had come from the Saudi side.

Prince Saud was in Moscow last year as part of an Arab League delegation discussing the

Gulf war and the Saudi Oil Minister visited officially on behalf of Opec.

Although the conservative Saudi regime is still believed reluctant to take the dramatic step of establishing full diplomatic relations, Moscow has established embassies in Oman and the United Arab Emirates under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Gulf Arab states fear an escalation of the Iran-Iraq conflict that would threaten their vulnerable oil facilities. Although supporting Iraq diplomatically and financially, they are officially neutral.

The Soviet Union has attempted to maintain its good relations with both Iran and Iraq, calling for a cease fire but hesitating to endorse the US call for an arms embargo against Iran.

Kuwait renews support for Palestinian struggle

KUWAIT yesterday renewed total support for the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation forces in Palestine, and emphasised that the uprising has consolidated the Palestinian and Arab cause in international forums.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said the upheaval in occupied Palestine, which is closing its second month soon, has sent shudders among the Israelis.

"We Arabs have moral duty to support our brethren by providing their needs," the Kuwaiti cabinet spokesman said during a meeting with a Jordanian student delegation Monday night.

Al Rashed cautioned against using the rising mass demonstrations in occupied Palestine for personal or factional interests, saying this could undermine the struggle.

He pointed out that the Israeli entity was living through its most difficult time, and argued that the flare-up in anti-occupation activities would definitely force a drop in Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Al Rashed suggested that Arabs should sink differences and work hand in hand to achieve fair and lasting solutions to their causes at the UN particularly the Palestinian problem.

Hailing the outcome of the

extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last November, the Kuwaiti official said it had opened a new door for sincere Arab cooperation, the first step towards Arab solidarity.

The state minister pointed out that Kuwait had initiated contacts with all world capitals that could help enforce UN Security Council resolution 598 ordering a comprehensive solution to the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked about Kuwaiti-Soviet ties, Al Rashed stressed they are good and cooperation between the two countries cover a wide range of fields despite Kuwait's announced opposition to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.



● Pakistani Ambassador Khaled Saleem is cutting a cake at the farewell reception hosted by the Syrian Ambassador Elasa Al Darwish (left), in his capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps on Monday at the Kuwait Sheraton hotel.

Diploma in clinical pharmacy

AN assistant undersecretary at the Health Ministry, Dr Jassem Hussain, said that ministry pharmacists will wish to attend a course for a high diploma in clinical pharmacy should contact the office of the director of pharmaceutical services for information about admission requirements.

He said the ministry was organising such courses to improve the pharmaceutical services and to upgrade the level of pharmacists.

Registration will begin on March 1 and continue until the end of the month.

He said the course will be of one year's duration and successful students will be given a diploma in clinical pharmacy from Belfast University, UK.

Kuwaiti to stand trial for slander

A KUWAIT national stands trial on Feb 6 for publicly advocating in writing the overthrow of the present regime and slandering HH the Amir, a spokesman of the State Security Court told Kuna yesterday.

The spokesman said the accused is charged with inciting openly and in public places by way of writing for overthrowing the present regime and slandering the Amir.

Ismael Sayed Hassan Sayed Ali Akbar who is currently held in detention pending trial, will be tried by a three-judge panel presided by Mohammad Abdul Hai Al Bannay and the membership of Ahmed Tahir Khalil, and Saud Abdul Karim Al Safran with Sultan Abu Jarroa prosecuting.

The opening session will be procedural for the press and the public, the spokesman said.



HH the Amir yesterday received Ali Naser, the envoy of the President of the Comoro Islands.

Balladur to hold wide-ranging talks

By Jadranka Porter

FRENCH Economics and Finance Minister Edouard Balladur arrived in Kuwait yesterday to sign an economic cooperation agreement and hold wide-ranging talks with Kuwaiti leaders.

Balladur, who was received at the airport by his Kuwaiti counterpart Jassim Al Khorafi, will today meet HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He will also confer with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad and the defence minister.

Balladur is on the third leg of a four-nation Arab tour that also took him to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Boost

He will reaffirm France's commitment to economic cooperation with Kuwait when he signs this afternoon an annually renewable Kuwaiti-French agreement which centres on finance and investment issues of mutual interest.

"France and Kuwait have a longstanding relationship based on mutual respect," Balladur said in the arrival statement. France, he said, shares to a large extent Kuwait's stance on issues of foreign policy which include problems in the Gulf region.

Japan names new envoys

TOKYO, Jan 26, (Kuna): The Japanese government today announced the appointment of new ambassadors to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Bahrain.

Koji Watanabe, 53, director of the Economic Cooperation Bureau, was named Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

After joining the Foreign Ministry in 1956, Watanabe had served as minister to China and head of the information analysis, research and planning bureau.



Edouard Balladur

Kuwait's attitude towards France has been one of steadfastness, stability and continuity, he added.

Welcoming Balladur, Al Khorafi, who met the minister in Paris last year, said the visit would boost the relations between the two countries.

In a press conference before his departure from Abu Dhabi, Balladur called for an international peace conference on the Middle East and stressed the need to implement UN Security Council resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire in the Gulf war. He described Franco-Arab relations as "excellent." Balladur leaves today for Amman, Jordan.

KD681m spent on security services

A STUDY prepared by the Research and Studies Department at Kuwait's Interior Ministry shows a KD681 million expenditure on security services for the ten year period from 1974 to 1984.

The study, which showed an increase in spending for security systems compared to health and education services, was prepared by 11 researchers and was supervised by the director of the department Abdul Majeed Khuraibet.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber following his return from the emergency Arab League meeting on Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands which was held two days ago in Tunisia.

Later the Amir received the Comoro Island's envoy Ali Naser who conveyed a message to the Amir from the Comoro President.

The Amir also received the ambassadors of Tunisia and Pakistan on the occasion of the end of their missions to Kuwait.

Congratulations

HH the Amir yesterday sent a congratulatory message to the Australian Governor-General on the occasion of his country's National Day.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also sent a similar congratulatory message to the Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Cabinet reviews past achievements

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday headed the regular meeting of the cabinet in which he summed up the achievements of the previous 18 months.

In his speech, Sheikh Saad said, on the political side, Kuwait has succeeded in hosting the Islamic summit, participated in all Arab conferences including the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, and supported all efforts seeking an end to the prolonged war between Iran and Iraq.

He also touched on all major developments in Kuwait such as the establishment of a Supreme Council for Planning, a Supreme Council for Oil, a Supreme Council for Education and the issuance of General Education Law.

In the economic field, he noted, the government worked hard to implement the programme of difficult debts settlements, a problem that has

plagued the country for several years.

He also mentioned the decree allowing the government to issue bonds worth \$1,400 million for the public.

The premier expressed appreciation for three resigning ministers, noting that they have worked sincerely to fulfil their duties and obligations.

The reshuffle that was announced yesterday brought three new faces to the cabinet. The three previous ministers, who served for a year and a half, expressed their desire to resign.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting, the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad briefed the ministers on the recent Arab foreign ministers' urgent meeting in Tunisia.

He said the decisions of the meeting met the challenges facing the Arab nation, especially the Israeli threat to Arab Palestinians living under occupation. The cabinet also listened to a report by Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi on his recent tour in the Far East and the Pacific. The minister briefed the Council of Ministers on the details of his talks with leaders of the countries he visited.

Saddam approves of GCC talks with Iran

(Continued from Page 1)

Saddam stressed that Iraqi people were all united, whether Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds or Christians.

In Washington, Pentagon officials said that US Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci has authorised a small reduction in the number of US warships deployed in the war-torn Gulf, including the withdrawal of the battleship Iowa.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the drawdown would begin around Feb 18. The number of ships assigned to the Middle East force will change only slightly — dropping by three or four — but the makeup will be realigned, the sources said.

US Secretary of State George Shultz conceded that US efforts to obtain a UN arms embargo against Iran were "stalling."

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TOLERATION is the best religion — Victor Hugo,
French writer (1802-1885).

Mine threat in Gulf yet to be over

By Richard Pyle

MANAMA, Bahrain, (AP): As several foreign navies consider reducing their mine-sweeping forces in the Gulf, critics warn that a cutback could leave the waterway vulnerable to Iranian mines again.

Some officials have said they fear that Tehran has refrained from laying mines recently in the hope that it will pressure the Europeans and perhaps even the Americans to scale down their costly naval commitments.

In recent days, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands were reported to be preparing to withdraw some of the mine hunters dispatched to the Gulf after the US-flag supertanker Bridgeton hit a mine last July 24 while sailing in a US Navy convoy.

The reported cutback, amounting to about 18 per cent of the 40-odd foreign warships in the Gulf, would leave the United States with the largest mine counter-measures force in the waterway.

Optimism

Even that would be reduced if the Pentagon goes through with expected plans to pull out the 11,000-ton helicopter carrier Okinawa with its four RH-53D Sea Stallion mine-sweeper helicopters.

Since the international effort began, about 60 mines have been found in and near the Gulf. The Americans found half — 15 in the so-called Farsi channel where the Bridgeton was hit, nine aboard the captured Iranian mine layer Iran Ajr, and six more in the waters where that vessel was seized Sept 21.

Britain said it found 10 mines and the French nine, but some of those were in coastal waters outside the Gulf. No other Western navies found any. The Soviets reportedly have found at least one.

As if to underscore official optimism that the mine threat has subsided, all six of the US ocean mine sweepers were anchored at Bahrain on one recent day. But some officers warn against complacency.

"It would be foolish to suggest the mine threat is over," said a US mine warfare officer.

The Okinawa's departure is expected to result from a review of the American forces makeup by new Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, based on his visit to the Gulf in early January.

Carlucci must decide whether pulling out the carrier and its helicopters would subject the Navy convoys of refuelled tankers to a renewed mine threat.

The Sea Stallions have served

as mine hunters ahead of US convoys, finding none — a result that does not justify the cost, some critics say.

"The helicopters are only a band-aid, with no sustained capability, and no good against modern mines," says retired Rear Adm. Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the Centre for Defence Information, a Washington-based group that regularly assails Pentagon policies.

Helicopter advocates concede their limitations but say the failure to find mines may simply mean their presence discouraged seeding.

The Sea Stallions' departure would leave the United States with six wooden-hulled ocean mine sweepers. The Navy was denied for towing the crew, Korean war-vintage craft on a 21/2 month journey to the Gulf, but they vindicated themselves by finding more mines than any navy using modern vessels.

Overall, that performance and the Iran Ajr capture have enabled the navy to salvage some of the reputation besmirched by the Bridgeton fiasco.

US mine warfare officers, who are mapping the Gulf floor with sonar, take a cautious view of their success, saying the problem is "under control".

A note of caution also came from Capt. Bob Money, commander of the British frigate Scylla, who said recently that although "known minefields" have been cleared, "we can't send them (the mine hunters) home as it would take six weeks to bring them back if the threat reappeared."

The Times of London reported, meanwhile, that Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium were planning to cut their mine-hunter forces by half and combine the rest — two British craft and one each from the other two — under an "integrated" command.

Agreed

Diplomatic sources said the three countries' defence ministers agreed to the plan in a London meeting, but there has been no official confirmation.

The Times said the cutback was acceptable because the southern Gulf was "clear of mines," and called the integrated command a "logical" spinoff of the present arrangement, under which the Belgian and Dutch have operated under joint command, protected by the Royal Navy.

Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanone told Parliament on Jan 13 that Italy would withdraw one of its three mine hunters and the support ship Anteo, probably by early February.

Saga of academics held hostage

BEIRUT, (Reuters): Four foreign academics, three Americans and an Indian, completed their first bleak year as hostages yesterday with no prospect of release in sight.

"Don't worry. This is only a show," said Professor Robert Polhill a year ago as gunmen posing as policemen dragged him and three colleagues away. Their wives looked on in horror.

The four from Beirut University College (BUC) fell victim to an elaborate kidnapping plot. A year later they are still held, with no sign of their early release.

The abduction of Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner and Indian Mithleshwar Singh was the most daring act of its kind in four years of kidnapping in lawless West Beirut and prompted President Reagan to order Americans out of Lebanon.

Their wives have remained in Beirut, sharing the ordeal. Four clean-shaven men dressed as policemen and carrying US-made M-16 rifles had arrived at the BUC campus at noon to discuss better security arrangements for the academics.

After nightfall they returned and met the four men and their wives. Minutes later they forced

the academics at gunpoint, into a waiting van as the wives burst into tears, according to an account by a BUC security guard.

The four are among 24 foreigners missing in Lebanon, most believed kidnapped by Muslim radicals seeking changes to Western policies in the Middle East.

The abduction of the BUC four was claimed by the underground Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJP).

Although mystery shrouds the identity of the group, a senior Muslim security source said the kidnappers were members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, using a convenient cover for political reasons.

Hezbollah has repeatedly denied the charge. The kidnappers demanded the release of 400 Arab prisoners held in Israel in exchange for the men's freedom but the Jewish state has rejected the idea.

"The fate of the four became part of the hostage saga in Lebanon and not only for the exchange of prisoners. The exchange deal is only a justification that the captors use to suit their political aims," the security source said.

Violence will serve no purpose

The Standard, independent, of Nairobi on South Africa:

On the surface, the violence which has claimed at least 44 lives is a clash between the Zulu-dominated Inkatha movement and the well-regarded United Democratic Front (UDF).

"Who is arming and financing the marauding Inkatha gangs

who are terrorising formally peaceful townships? Would it be unreasonable to point a finger at Pretoria? Their activities certainly serve the cause of apartheid in more than one way.

"While it must be stated categorically that violence by either side will serve no purpose, the real causes must also be borne in mind."



It can pose the biggest political headache for Thatcher

Britain's cradle-to-grave health service sick

By Al Webb

LONDON, (UPI): Nurses are striking for the first time in Britain's history. A four-year-old boy waits months for hole-in-the-heart surgery. The number of hospital beds drops while the waiting list to use them soars.

After 40 years, Britain's "cradle-to-grave" National Health Service, once the jewel in the crown of UK socialism, is in a major crisis. It could pose the biggest political headache yet for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Money to fuel the NHS is running out — and renegeing on the guarantee of a lifelong free medical care that most Britons take for granted is a sure-fire way to raise the hackles of voters who put governments in power, and remove them.

The NHS, which began life as a Labour party dream on July 5, 1948, with a budget of £1.75 billion (\$3.19 billion at today's rate), today is a nightmare of cost overruns despite the whopping £29 billion (\$52.8 billion) it takes to operate.

The Conservative government has just given the NHS a £102 million (\$186 million) transfusion to keep it alive until the next budget, in March. There are serious doubts it is anywhere near enough.

Dr Tony Smith, deputy editor of the British Medical Journal, dismisses it as "nothing like large enough" to stave off budget deficits. Neil Kinnock, leader of

the opposition Labour Party, says more than 10 times that much is needed to enable the NHS just to cope.

The human dimensions to the crisis are perhaps more telling.

Matthew Collier, 4, has waited since last September for a life-saving operation to repair a hole in his heart. The reason: a shortage of intensive care staff, including nurses, at Birmingham's children's hospital.

British nurses, for the first time, have staged walkouts to protest what they say are planned cuts in the extra pay they earned for working "unsocial" hours. It started in Manchester. Nurses in London are threatening to follow.

Other nurses, fed up with long hours and low pay, are migrating to richer grounds. One advertisement drew 500 applicants for nursing jobs in Australia. Others are off to the United States, where the pay is double for less work.

According to Labour party figures undisputed by the Conservatives, 687,000 would-be surgery patients are waiting, some for more than a year, for about 128,000 available hospital beds, a drop of about 19,000 in the number of beds in the last eight years.

From John Branczik, general manager of London's West Middlesex Hospital, running short of beds and staff: "The only way you can get in here is if you are nearly dying, and you are aboard a blue-flashing (emergency) ambulance."

From an unprecedented news-

paper advertisement taken out by 296 of the 310 general practitioners in Oxfordshire, west of London: cuts in funds for chest, surgical and geriatrics wards in the country's hospitals "very probably hasten death in some patients."

Finest

Yet Britain's health service is still considered one of the finest in the world, and statistics contradict the horror stories. Eight hospital beds for every 1,000 people compared with six in the United States; 85 nurses for every 10,000 Britons to 50 in America.

Oddly enough, it seems the NHS's success threatens to be its own undoing. It is keeping more Britons alive longer, resulting in an ageing society that needs more money than ever to tend its needs.

None of the NHS's founders ever dreamed of the miraculous strides forward — and the attendant costs — in medical science in the next four decades. Hip replacements were undreamed of in 1948. In Britain today, there are 40,000 such operations per year at an average of \$3,200 (\$5,824) each.

The result is that not even Thatcher's 30 per cent increase in spending on the NHS in her eight years in office — well above inflation figures — has stemmed the erosion that today finds 100 of the country's 192 health districts poised on a financial scalpel.

To balance their budgets, many have cut nursing staff and wards. At Maidstone Hospital southeast of London, for example, a splendidly equipped 28-

Liberals agree to political marriage to form new party

By Peter Gregson

BLACKPOOL, England, (Reuters): Britain's Liberals, in an overwhelming show of support that surprised their leaders, have agreed to a political marriage designed to forge a powerful new centrist union.

By a vote of more than five to one, 2,500 delegates at the biggest assembly in Liberal Party history on Saturday overwhelmingly backed a merger with the small opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP).

It is a wedding that David Steel, frustrated after 12 years of political impotence as Liberal leader, had set his heart on. But even he was staggered by the outcome.

"We didn't expect anything as enormous as that," he declared after the vote easily exceeded the two-thirds majority required for merger to go ahead.

With the last step of a postal ballot of all 90,000 Liberal members on the issue now regarded as a formality, the spotlight switches to the SDP and their own special merger assembly in Sheffield next weekend.

Split

They also are expected to say "I do" to the marriage and a new party with the odd and cumbersome name of Social and Liberal Democrats is due to be born within the next three months.

But the merger issue, forced by

Steel after the two parties were routed in general elections last year, split the SDP and a breakaway wing led by former leader David Owen rejects the union.

The strength and unity of the two parties at the right (SDP) and left (Liberal) of the political centre must also be in question.

They are wide apart on such issues as nuclear defence, and a Liberal revolt over an abortive policy document produced by Steel and new SDP leader Robert MacLennan 10 days ago, which was condemned as neo-conservative, almost wrecked six painful months of merger negotiations.

Hope

With Owen taking two other SDP members of Parliament with him, the new party will be able to count only 19 seats in the 650-member House of Commons, 17 of them belonging to Liberals.

But it is at local council level, where many Liberals and SDP supporters have worked alongside each other in a pact called the Alliance since the SDP was formed in 1981, that leaders of both parties hope future strength will grow.

Steel, in his eulogy to more than a century of liberalism, told delegates in Blackpool that the ideals of the party of Prime Minister William Gladstone and economist Maynard Keynes will not die.

"We shall carry out liberalism proud and intact into the new party," he said.

It is 66 years since the Liberals relinquished to Labour their position as one of Britain's two major political parties and Steel spelled out clearly that change must precede any chance of winning power.

Merger would give them "the chance to put liberalism into practice," he said. "Let Labour remain the official opposition. Our people want us to become the electable opposition."

Goodbye

The 385 people who voted against merger included a number of prominent Liberals, some of them such as president-elect Michael Meadowcroft vowing afterwards that they would not join the new party. He had one word to the 2099 delegates who voted for merger: "Goodbye."

To the dissenters, Steel offered an olive branch: "This party has never sought to crush colleagues who happen to think differently from ourselves. The new party of Social and Liberal Democrats must sustain that tradition."

MacLennan, who was rebuffed by Owen when he made a last-ditch appeal for him to think again, called the vote a magnificent result.

Owen said: "I am glad that the vote at Blackpool has ended the uncertainty. We are now sadly at the parting of the ways. Let us part with mutual respect."



Margaret Thatcher

Boyson suggests the government set up a scheme under which, to help pay the cost of such insurance, each individual would receive a voucher worth \$546, the average per capita cost of the NHS.

Oppose

Thatcher, well aware of British sensitivities over their health service, is unlikely to take such a draconian step.

What is more likely, says health analyst Hugh Ellwell, is a government attempt to raise additional revenue and at the same time discourage abuses of the NHS system by imposing charges of at least \$9.10 to see a doctor and about \$45 per night for hospital accommodation.

Britons have left the government in no doubt that they want something done — but they, too, are not certain what.

In a recent Daily Telegraph poll 22 per cent saw the health service as the country's most pressing problem. But 88 per cent opposed charging for dental checks and 89 per cent were against paying for eye tests. Paying for visits to doctors or for hospital beds are likely to prove no more popular.

Whatever it does, the government must first recognise the NHS "has been underfunded for 40 years," says Dr Marvyn Goldberg, chief executive of American Medical International, which despite the name is Britain's largest private hospital group.

"The National Health Service is vital," he says. "To let it run down to the point where it cannot deliver the care needed would be a national disaster."

Many Britons see this as the first step toward ending free medical care, the thin edge of a wedge that could open a Pandora's box of American-style private medical insurance plans and, worse, American-sized hospital bills of which they have heard so much.

Other suggestions for funding the NHS run the gamut from full privatisation to a national lottery or yet more taxes on alcohol and tobacco on grounds that abusers of those two substances should pay dearly for resultant health problems.

The Economist magazine suggests that, to improve health service efficiency, the government should encourage competition by "allowing private management to run a few hospitals, letting efficient hospitals sell treatment to those with long waiting lists ... (and) opening up general practice to competitive tender."

Member of Parliament Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative minister and one of Thatcher's staunchest supporters, goes even further and proposes every Briton be required to take out private medical insurance.

To ease some of the sting,

for the occasional roar of military jeeps as they sped through the western sector, constantly patrolling the wall. Behind them raced press cars, filled with reporters.

On some street corners, West Berliners stood on ladders, peering across and above the wall through binoculars, waving at East Berliners in far-off buildings. In the upper floors of buildings on each side, people leaned from windows, peering over the wall with great curiosity.

In both sides, the buildings mirrored desolation: most showed heavy scars from the bombs of World War II, and near them were piles of rubble.

Difference

In West, however, there were some new apartment houses, and laden fruit stands and bright shops beckoning to easterners, and a feeling it would take more than a brick wall to divide the 725-year-old city.

But there was a great difference, far beyond shops, buildings, and the attitude of police. Whatever else was felt on the western side of the wall, it was not the helplessness and desolation that hovered on the other side.

Just beyond the wall in East Berlin stood a church, with a figure of Christ beckoning. But close by the church stood armed guards, there to keep people from such a simple act as crossing from one side of a street to another.

Much has changed in the quarter-century since that autumn day in Berlin. Yet much has not changed. The wall remains. And the guards in bright green uniforms.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Time to bring down the Berlin Wall

By Dick Meisler

WEST BERLIN: How much longer must Berlin wait? Will the spirit of glasnost finally bring down the wall?

Berlin's long wait began way back in 1961, in an atmosphere of incredible tension that I and other reporters had found almost too intense to describe.

West Berliners sat at sidewalk cafes downtown, chatting amiably but without gaiety. Genuine relaxation seemed impossible because of the newly constructed wall, which stood just a few miles away.

I especially remember a warm day in October.

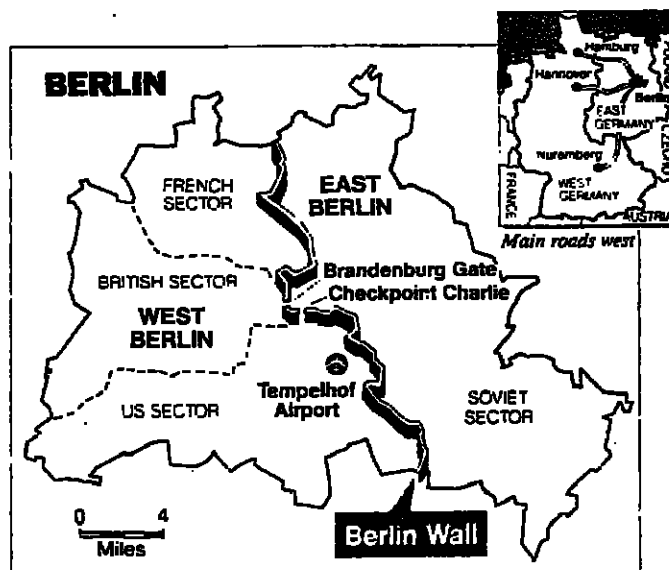
The night before, an East Berliner had tried to get beyond the wall. Police chased him from rooftop to rooftop, but he reached a drainpipe on a building fronting on West Berlin.

West Berlin police fired across the wall, hoping to give the young man opportunity to climb down to the sidewalk on their side of the wall and to the freedom he had shouted for. But he lost his grip and fell to the sidewalk. He died instantly.

On the spot that autumn afternoon lay wreaths, placed there by some of the West Berliners who stood in the large, quiet crowds lining the sidewalk and the other streets that bordered the wall.

Twice before their vigil had been broken. That had come earlier in the day, when the East Berlin police had fired across the wall.

The police bullets had done no damage. But what would be next? The crowd didn't know, so it waited. Here was the East-



West confrontation in a single frightening capsule.

Rows and rows of red flags and the flags of the German Democratic Republic waved overhead. The wall below was a crude structure hurriedly constructed of used brick, but sturdy and topped with barbed wire and jagged, wicked-looking hunks of broken glass.

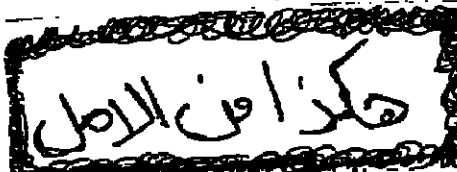
Above the wall, caps of the East Berlin police standing guard were everywhere evident. Here and there a guard in bright green uniform showed himself — always with at least two comrades, their grimmess in contrast to the outward ease of the gray-uniformed West Berlin police standing across the street from them, smiling as they chatted with the curious.

At one spot, East Berlin work-

men were heightening the wall, placidly gazing now and then at the intently staring West Berliners. An attractive West Berlin girl sauntered to within a few feet of the spot and casually pointed her camera into the face of a guard peering over. For what must have been the thousandth time, he allowed his photo to be taken. Then, for just a moment, the crisis was forgotten.

Other guards popped up to catch a glimpse of the girl, and one bantered with her suggestively. A nervous titter started through the crowd, but no one laughed out loud. There was a feeling of embarrassment. The titter died away quickly and nerves were once more drawn taut. A West Berliner shouted insults at the guards. His dog barked at them.

Then it was quiet again, except



By Kathy Cuddihy

Out of print

I received the news of a friend's impending book release with sincere happiness and enthusiasm on her behalf. Then she pushed her luck slightly by pounding at my door early one morning, frantically waving a letter in her hand.

"What's all the excitement for, goodness sake? Has someone volunteered to pay your bank overdraft?" "Better, much better," she announced breathlessly. "Read this. You won't believe it."

You're right. I probably won't believe it. As a writer, I know better than to believe anything I read.

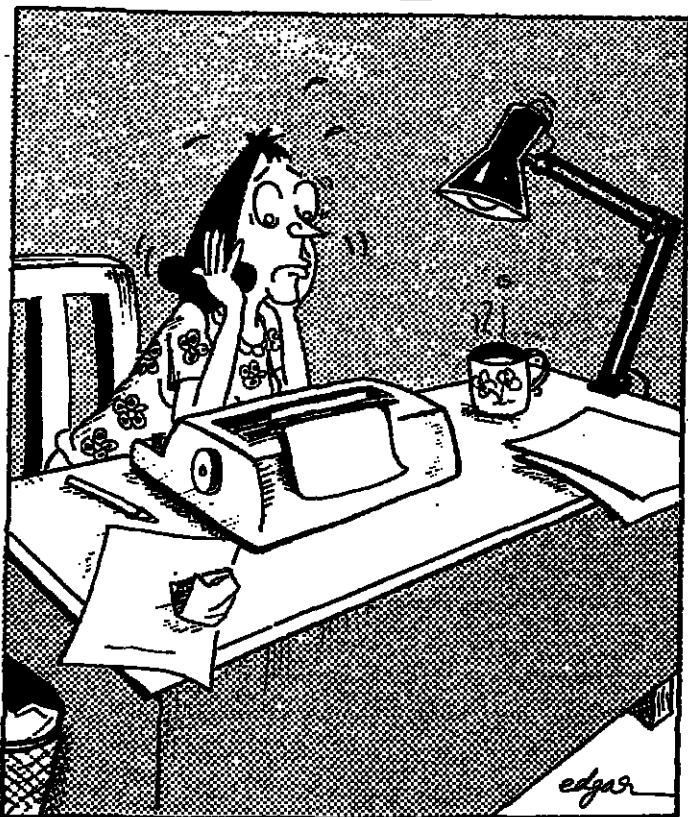
As I skimmed the contents of the letter, certain sentences jumped out at me, little catch phrases such as, "Congratulations. You have a real winner on your hands." "We would like to discuss a second printing of 20,000 copies."

Sheesh! This woman's first attempt at a book had produced a hot little number that my hasty calculations estimated would net her over \$100,000 in royalties! And all this was the result of a 5-day holiday, no less. There is no justice.

I still felt elation for her success... or impending success, but I also felt that perhaps I was getting left behind at the starting line.

A paragraph in the newspaper heightened my smug emotions: "So-and-so, former free-lance contributor to this newspaper, has just signed her first book contract. Rumour has it she has negotiated \$30,000 for her yet-to-be finished gothic romance."

In a display of camaraderie, a chum at the



newspaper phoned to give me an update on the deal. "We've found that it's actually \$40,000 she'll get. That's not too bad, is it?"

"Not too shabby at all," I muttered with diminishing zeal. "And just how many books does she have to churn out for all that money?"

"Just one! She's only written 3 chapters and some big publishing house grabbed her. Isn't it fantastic?"

"Fantastic?" I retorted, letting my jealousy surge to the surface. "It sounds immoral to me. I have 2 unfinished manuscripts in my desk and both of them have a lot more than 3 chapters. Why hasn't anyone offered me \$40,000 to finish them? With incentive like that I could

say goodbye to the starvation wages of newspaper work."

"Gee, Kath," came an awed reply. "I didn't know you were writing a book—2 books, no less. What are they about?"

"Well, they are non-fiction and the subjects are rather sensitive. After all the trouble 'Spycatcher' caused I don't want to take any chances until they're in print. I hope you understand."

I figured that line might get him off my back for a while. I wouldn't have been caught dead revealing the true working titles: "How to House-Train Geckos" and "Are You At the End of Your Rope", a how-to book about collecting string. Better to let them

reach the best seller list so I could enjoy the last laugh than to suffer an avalanche of snide comments along the road to success.

I hung up the phone and glared at my moth-eaten manuscripts. Something inside me kept nagging that there had to be a faster, easier and more profitable way to earn a living as a writer. What I needed was little "think tank". "By golly, that's it," I shouted at no one.

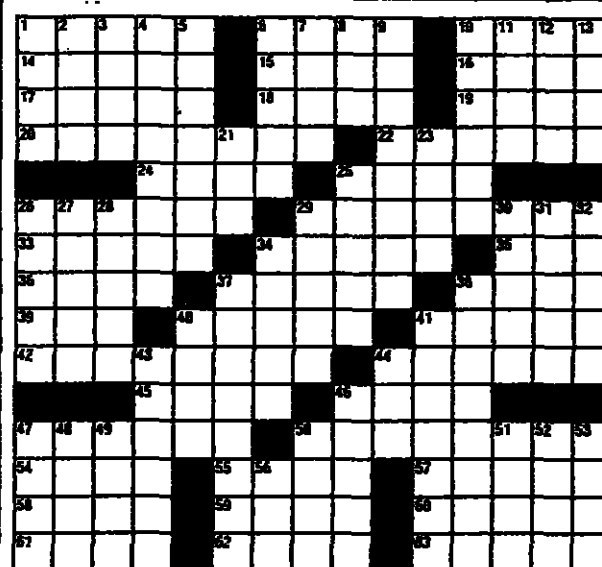
I would recruit a few women with fertile imaginations, ply them with something cool and refreshing (no, I don't mean ice cubes), and encourage them to fantasise into my tape recorder. We would have the outline of a Great Romance Novel in no time.

Of course, I would have to invite just the right people. There should be a couple of romantic dreamers, someone with a devious mind to provide the twist in the plot, and at least one person with a sharp sense of humour. Since my conscience tells me that I shouldn't belittle the labours of serious romance writers, I would make my effort a parody—certainly a more entertaining venture for me if for no one else.

I can already hear a few of you readers thinking, "You know, that's really not a bad idea." Well let me tell you, it's a great idea. So great that I've taken the trouble to copyright it, patent it, or whatever else needs to be done to preserve it as mine, mine, mine.

And if, in spite of my precautions, one of you people follow my plan, get a big offer from a publisher, and have a success on your hands... I'd at least like a slice of the profits... and a copy of the book.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Main artery
 - 6 Little or grand, e.g.
 - 10 Oodles
 - 14 Island republic, W. Pacific Ocean
 - 15 Island dance
 - 16 Soft drink flavor
 - 17 Gudrun's husband et al.
 - 18 Soviet sea
 - 19 Mod musical
 - 20 Province of NE China
 - 22 Endured
 - 24 Land of the Kurds: Var.
 - 25 Young hawk
 - 26 Himalayan cedar
 - 29 People of northern India
 - 33 Potential energy
 - 34 Boy scout badge
 - 35 Army off.
 - 36 Actress Cheryl
 - 37 Inner part of ancient Greek temple
 - 38 Fused refuse
 - 39 1st class soldier
 - 40 In a frenzied manner
 - 41 School, in Paris
 - 42 Republic of Central America
 - 44 New ones
 - 45 Organic compound
 - 46 Skirt feature
 - 47 Hearty soup
- DOWN**
- 1 Anecdotal collections
 - 2 Pledge
 - 3 Actress Lanska
 - 4 — and Tobago
 - 5 Southern
 - 6 Lower leg
 - 7 Marine worm
 - 8 — carte
 - 9 Sabah's country
 - 10 Split
 - 11 Burden
 - 12 Author Wiesel
 - 13 Voting district
 - 21 Midwest org. 1958-61
 - 23 Money in Bangkok
 - 25 Confederate
 - 26 Ditch, old style
 - 27 Muse of lyric poetry
 - 28 Humorous Nash
 - 29 Book of —
- Irish manuscript**
30 Arctic abode
31 Kingdom
32 "Picnic" playwright and family
34 Hero's reward
37 Pacific island group
38 Part of Great Britain
40 Memorable actor Paul
41 Province of N Ethiopia
43 Item
44 Wheat, in France
46 Pumps and clogs
47 1 wash: Sp.
48 Oklahoma city
49 — bene
50 Normandy town
51 Skin problem
52 Turnip, old style
53 Mild explosive
56 Afr. land

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE PRICE OF RESPECT

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 3
♥ 10 9 8 6 5 3
♦ J 10
♣ K 8

EAST
♠ A 8 5 4 2
♥ K J 7 4 2
♦ 8 5
♣ J 10 9 7 5 3 2 6

SOUTH
♠ K 9
♥ Q
♦ A K Q 9 7 6 3
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
West Pass North 1 ♠ South 3 NT
4 ♠ Pass East 4 NT

Opening lead: ?

A famous expert once gave a course for intermediate bridge players. At his first class, he opened the proceedings by remarking: "Not every four no trump bid is Blackwood!" Half the class promptly got up and walked out.

Of course, our lecturer was right. Today's hand is a case where four no trump is a natural bid. Since South was prepared to play three no trump, his bid over four clubs was natural, saying he thought he could make 10 tricks.

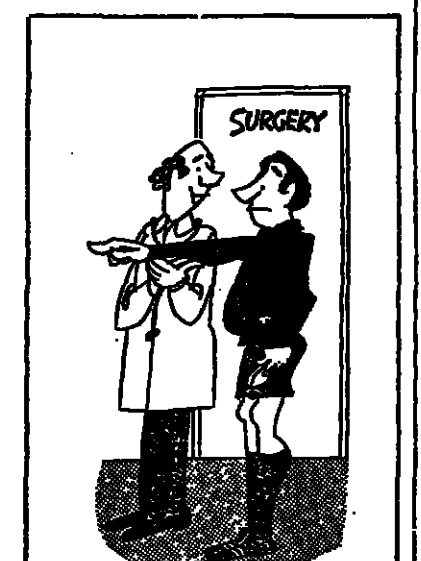
South was our good friend and sometime partner, French internationalist Christian Mari. His oppo-

nent knew him well, and had infinite faith in his honesty. West reckoned that if Mari thought he could make four no trump with a club or a spade lead, there was no reason to doubt him. In this analysis, West was remarkably prescient. With a spade lead, declarer would have made 11 tricks as the cards lie; a club lead would have held him to 10—it would have been too risky to win the club in dummy and lead a spade, since the defenders might have been able to collect three heart tricks in addition to the ace of spades.

South's jump to three no trump suggested a long running suit, and it had to be diamonds. That left an obvious opening lead—the ace of hearts!

The rest was easy, with East playing his part by signalling with the seven of hearts to ask for a spade switch. A spade to the ace and the king-jack of hearts concluded a well-reasoned defense and gained a top score for East-West.

There is a price you pay for being famous—your opponents tend to respect you.



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
BLUE BLEED ALBUM
RARE LOPE PEASE
EMBROIDER OGRE
TIA SNEERS EBBRO
ENNEDS ILLONA
ARE SNOWDROP
SPAS DRAGEE IDO
LARES ETE DRAIN
ART CAVERN ANCE
PRIMATES EAT
FINER SAVABLE
ROAN NEGATE RIN
INCUS NEVERMIND
OCTET CAIN INEE
TESTY ERNS BEND

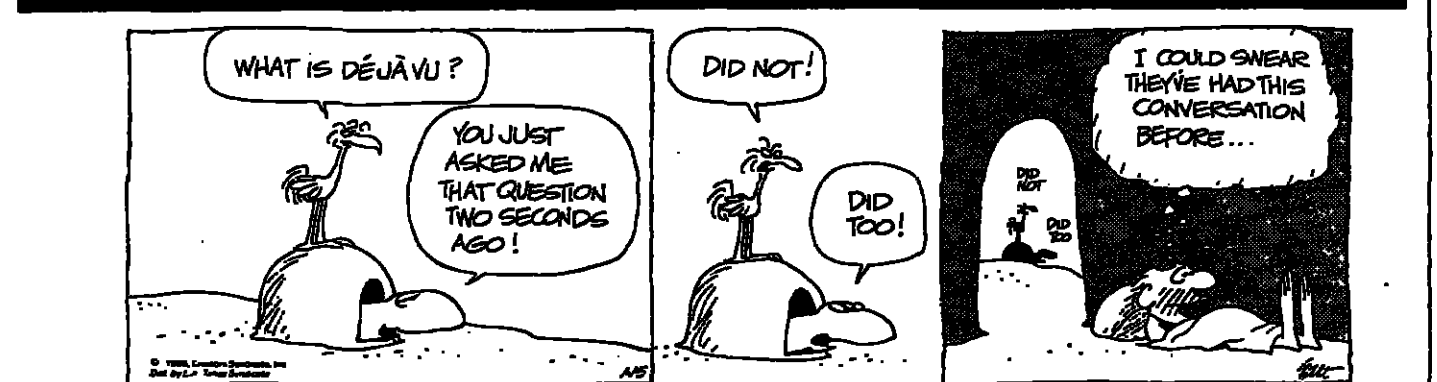
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will have to have the courage of your convictions. Today you will be able to do something a little different. Do not become lethargic or fatalistic. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>The Moon's influence will help you to collect your thoughts. You should not waste time by getting into an argument. You should not do anything that might spoil your health. Be faithful.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>The Moon's influence will help you to collect your thoughts. You should not waste time by getting into an argument. You should not do anything that might spoil your health. Be faithful.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>Make sure you do not get on other people's nerves. Avoid doing anything too adventurous but do not be too timid either. Use a little more commonsense and show a little more goodwill. Be resilient.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Make sure you keep your objective in the forefront of your mind. You should not indulge in daydreams but nor should you abandon your ideals. Do not eat or drink more than is good for you. Be a little more patient.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>If you rely on luck to get you out of trouble you will be very disappointed. You would do well to keep very calm. You should not try to fight against what cannot be changed, but you should distinguish between it and what can.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You should avoid allowing your resentments to cloud your judgement. Keep your wits very much about you and look beneath appearances. Do not rely too much on others. Be perceptive.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You should not become complacent or self-satisfied. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford, but do not skimp on essential repairs. Avoid over-tiring yourself. Be tactful.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will be able to do something to improve relationships. If you expect a little less you will not be disappointed. Do not get lost amongst the trees: keep the wood in sight. Be cordial.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You will be able to do something very much to your liking. However you must not neglect doing something less pleasant that must be done too. Avoid any kind of rudeness or intolerance. Be understanding.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You will not be in the best of moods so try hard to keep out of trouble. Do not hesitate to try a new approach. Never think you are too old to learn. Be magnanimous.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should not allow your attention to wander. Make sure you are not late for an appointment or deadline. Venus's influence will help you to sort out your emotions. Be a little more optimistic.</p>

Loving care for lonely parrots

By Galina Vromen

GELDROP, Netherlands, (Reuters): "Polly want a cracker?" is the best human offer parrots might get in many places.

But in the welfare-conscious Netherlands, the birds are treated to vitamin-rich diets, showers and even matchmaking services at a unique shelter for battered and lonely parrots.

Tucked away in the loft of a furniture workshop, the Netherlands parrot shelter in the southern Dutch village of Geldrop is the creation of Tony van Meegen, a carpenter and former bird merchant.

"I saw how blind and crippled parrots were often killed by their owners because they weren't well treated. Something had to be done about it," said Van Meegen, 35.

Opened last year as a non-profit foundation, the centre houses about 160 parrots in large cages. Van Meegen says it is the only shelter of its kind in Europe. There are an estimated 200,000 parrots in the Netherlands.

Most of the birds in the shelter are brought in by owners unable to tolerate the cacophonous shrieks of the average parrot.

"This bird was hurtled to the



Tony van Meegen plays with three of the 160 birds under his care.

floor with his cage by an owner who just couldn't take the noise any more," said Van Meegen, pointing to a white cockatoo newcomer.

Some birds have arrived after plucking their own feathers out — a sign of extreme anxiety and loneliness for a male, Van Meegen said.

Others are blind from vitamin-poor diets, a few have lost their claws from over-exposure to cold.

Some were brought by ageing owners who feared their pets would outlive them and be neglected — an understandable concern since parrots can live to be 70.

The birds are inspected by a veterinarian on arrival and

remain in quarantine for a few days before being placed in large cages to socialise with others of their ilk.

That's when, with a bit of luck, the romances begin.

"Parrots are very social animals. They find a mate and stay together for the rest of their lives," Van Meegen said.

"Sometimes they choose a mate of the same sex. I don't mind, as long as they are happy," he added.

When the birds start to pair off, often within two weeks, Van Meegen moves them to a private cage together.

Every few days, the ceiling sprinkler system is turned on to give them a shower.

Along with half a dozen

other volunteers, he makes sure the birds get a wide variety of seeds for food.

Van Meegen hopes to raise enough funds some day to open an outdoor park, with cold-weather rooms, for the birds.

He also hopes to provide a quarantine centre for customs authorities who seize illegal shipments of parrots coming into the Netherlands.

In the meantime, he must contend with angry bird merchants who view the shelter as a threat to their business.

Parrots are worth between \$200 and \$1,500 a piece. Some traders say the centre, which does not sell birds, is taking valuable parrots off the market, Van Meegen said.

Redford's acting goals

SUNDANCE SKI RESORT, Utah, (UPI): Making at least one more movie with Paul Newman is among the final acting goals of Robert Redford, the film star who has concentrated recently on directing and producing.

"I'd like to be in another movie," said Redford, 50, adding he and Newman have "discussed" appearing in a third film together. But he said the two stars do not have a film script in mind.

Redford and Newman starred in the successful *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, about the hole in the rock gang of Western outlaws, and in *The Sting*, about 1920s filmfrenzy men who cheat a mobster, por-

trayed by Robert Shaw. When he first broke into acting, Redford told reporters at a news conference at his Utah ski resort named after his outlaw character in the Western film with Newman, his main interest was "just to find work."

But, as his career progressed, Redford said, "You finally begin to develop a need to put your own stamp on it."

More and more, Redford said, he has been producing and directing films and starring in fewer movies.

Considered an environmentalist by some, Redford's latest film activity — *The Milagro Bean Field War* — is a political story about water rights in New Mexico. But he said he has no

interest in running for elective office.

"I'm interested in the political process, but not politics," he said.

"The *Milagro Bean Field War*, a movie based on the John Nicholas novel by the same name, is Redford's latest directing effort, and is set for a spring release.

Redford also is involved in sponsoring the Sundance Institute — US film festival at Park City, Utah, which on Friday began its 10-day exhibition of films by independent directors and producers.

The annual festival, he said, has gained stature "because it has a focus" as a showcase for films made outside the Hol-



Robert Redford: one more movie.

wood spotlight. This year's festival is the largest in terms of entrant films and the number of people attending, about 33,000 spectators, Redford said.

Former pop star now in the big league

Cher achieves stardom by doing it her way



Cher is Kathleen Riley, a public defender who represents a man accused of murder.

By Ivor Davis

IT has taken a long time but Cher is finally respectable.

At 41, an age when many Hollywood actresses have one foot in the plastic surgeon's office and the other in the unemployment line, she has made three movies back-to-back and has ascended to that rarified list of performers offered first crack at any script.

With Jessica Lange, Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Meryl Streep and Barbara Streisand, Cher is now in the big league.

If there was any doubt—that Cher is a top-notch actress, she has dispelled it as Kathleen Riley in the romantic thriller *Suspect*. She plays an overworked, burned-out attorney forced to defend a transient accused of murdering a Washington secretary.

However, those characters were so far out on the edge of society that they seemed almost

another species. Riley, on the other hand, is part of the fabric of society, a public defender in Washington, D.C., a woman who went to a reputable university, a superior law school, a woman who wears suits. Cher plays her so convincingly that you never doubt her for a moment.

Mainstream

Cher says that entering the mainstream did not come naturally. "I was intimidated by the role in 'Suspect' when I first read it," she says. "I liked the script but I know nothing about law. So I chose to play the aspect of Kathleen's character that I knew, that I could relate to. Then the legal terms and language fell into place. I used them as if I'd been using them all my life."

"I went to a murder trial in Washington to do research," she says. "A man killed four of his roommates and I met the two women handling the case. They knew they didn't have a chance but they busted their asses. I'd never seen people work that hard. The job took up their lives. They were an inspiration to me."

Cher insisted on removing the film's only love scene opposite Dennis Quaid, who plays a Washington lobbyist called to jury duty.

"I felt it was inappropriate," she says. "It didn't seem right that you spent all this time

establishing Riley as an independent woman, then she falls for the first man that comes along."

Cher knows about working hard to make it. She did a lot of that when, at 30, she decided, after a career as a singer on CBS-TV's "The Sonny and Cher Show" opposite then-husband Sonny Bono, to become a serious actress.

"I wish it hadn't taken so long," she says. "I got my first job at 35. I didn't work for two years after 'Mask'. I'm pretty picky."

It should have been easier. Cher had just come off a hit show that had been seen around the world, but as an actress she could not get an agent.

"No one would give me an audition or a screen test," she says. "They told me people would never accept a person with one name as an actress. They told me people wouldn't stop believing for a moment that I was the character 'Cher'."

Admit

Cher would be the first to admit that she didn't make it easy for people in the industry. She presented an Oscar at the 1984 Academy Award ceremony clad in a scanty costume made of black feathers, and was photographed at rock clubs with a different date in tow every week. Real actresses look like Meryl Streep and exude dignity, don't they?

"They tell me I'm trying to look like Madonna," she says, laughing. "I was wearing my old leather jacket when she was still in leather diapers."

"Sure, I could have changed and looked serious a long time ago and maybe gotten someone to take notice. But I wanted to do it the way I wanted. There



If there was any doubt that Cher was a top notch actress, she has dispelled it with her portrayal as Kathleen Riley in the romantic thriller *Suspect*.

was no guarantee that if I dressed more conventionally people would take me seriously. I am who I am and I'm going to be that way no matter what anyone thinks."

Cher spent too many years, she says, trying to live up to people's expectations, first as a dark, swarthy kid from the wrong side of the tracks whose mother married eight times, then as the wife of a dominating Italian husband. "That was a schizophrenic existence. On our TV show I was the one in command but when we came home I was expected to follow orders."

Then another marriage in which she became cook and hand-holder to rock singer Gregg Allman, a former drug addict who is the father of her son Elijah Blue, 11. (Cher has a daughter Chastity, 18, from her marriage to Bono.)

Cher's timing could have been better, 41 is not the ideal age for an actress and she knows it.

"When Robert Redford is playing love scenes with Daryl Hannah, we're in trouble," she says. "How young do you have to be and who do people like me play opposite? It doesn't matter how old a man is and how young the woman is, but try it the other way around."

Cher does. Rob Camilletti, a 23-year-old former New York bartender is her latest boyfriend. She says she goes out with younger men because they ask her older men find her intimidating.

"They think I'm too wild for them, or at least my image is too wild," she says. "They never ask me out and I would never ask them. The more I like them the less likely I'd be to speak to them, so that leaves younger men. They're more supportive as lovers and less demanding. They don't try to control you."

Cher's determination to succeed has given her the courage to return to singing. She began a two-week cross-country tour Oct 19 to promote her new

album "Cher."

"I didn't want to do it. I never liked my singing," she says, "which is not to say I don't like to sing because I have a great time singing."

But Cher doesn't intend to be pigeon-holed again as just a singer or an actress.

"That kind of thinking screwed up my life for a long time," she says.

Cher's latest movie, "Moonstruck," which opens just before Christmas, features her as a lonely widow in an Italian family in Brooklyn whose hope and liveliness are restored by a passionate entanglement with a baker (Nicholas Cage).

"I love that movie," she says. "If nobody went to see it I wouldn't care. I'm satisfied with it. Mind you, you shouldn't be satisfied with a film. Satisfied is what you should be when you clean out your closets. It's not what you should be when you do a piece of art."

And that, folks, is vintage Cher.

Basinger hits it off with Nadine

By Ivor Davis

"WHEN I was a kid at school," says Kim Basinger, "my teachers asked me to stand up and tell them what I wanted to be when I grew up."

"I said I was going to be the biggest star—the best actress in the world," she says, flashing a smile. "And everyone laughed."

Today no one is laughing. At 33, the former fashion model who in a few short years has starred opposite some of Hollywood's top actors — Burt Reynolds, Robert Redford, Charlton Heston, Sean Connery, Mickey Rourke, Sam Shepard, Bruce Willis, Richard Gere — has finally hit it big. She plays a sexy, savvy Texan in the title role of Oscar-winning writer-director Robert Benton's delightful comedy caper *Nadine*.

"Kim Basinger emerges from this film like a brainy Marilyn Monroe," said one reviewer. "Noted another: 'The kind of movie that Hollywood used to live by.' Kim Basinger plays Nadine with a blend of fire and humour—it's the performance of a star."

It is a performance long overdue and one that may earn Basinger an Oscar nomination. The film is set in dusty, dreary Austin, Texas, in 1954. Nadine Hightower dreams of better days as she toils in the Alamo Beauty Parlor, barely scraping out a \$20-a-week living as a manicurist. Estranged husband Vernon Hightower (Jeff Bridges) dreams of new ways to keep his bar from going bankrupt. The fun begins when Nadine witnesses a murder and enlists Vernon to help her recover some "art" pictures the deceased had taken of her that she wants back.

The picture works because of the funny, fast script, the near-perfect performances, especially from Basinger, and the direction of Benton, who also made *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979) and *Places in the Heart*

(1984). "When I began writing the story," says Benton, "I posted a picture of Jeff Bridges above my typewriter. I didn't have a picture of Nadine. I knew she had to be very beautiful. But from the moment we met for the audition I swear there was no one else who could do this. There's a huge part of Nadine that is real Kim Basinger. The only other time that happened was when I was casting 'Kramer' and Meryl Streep walked in the door. Dustin Hoffman and I looked at each other and said, 'This is Joanna Kramer.'"

Even Basinger felt the chemistry was right.

"When I first met Benton I didn't know if this man was for real — so kind and forthright,"

she says. "I just told him right then and there: 'I'll do anything for you.' The thing I love most about Nadine is that she's not afraid to live out loud. She's 100 per cent real — she's got a big, big heart and she's also a beautiful conniver. Frankly, we're very much alike. I've never seen such a great gal. She's the kind of girl you could drink with all night, and you can learn more from this one woman than you could ever learn from any of the Seven Sister schools."

"Vernon and Nadine are like two peas in a pod," says Bridges. "They're so much alike. You've got two people who are so similar and so stubborn, yet they are very much in love."

Since the Georgia-bred Basinger switched from the

highly paid field of Manhattan modelling to the big screen she has struggled to find the right part, although there has been no shortage of roles.

After five years as a cover girl she drove cross-country to Los Angeles and quickly landed the lead in the TV movie *Centerfold* (1978) and in the miniseries *From Here to Eternity* (1979).

Her first film was *Hard Country* (1981) opposite Jan-Michael Vincent, which was followed by *Mother Lode* (1982) with Charlton Heston. Her dazzling beauty was spectacularly displayed as Sean Connery's lady in *Never Say Never Again* (1983); as the wealthy Houston nymphomaniac in *The Man Who Loved Women* (1983) with Burt Reynolds; as the temptress opposite Robert Redford in *The Natural* (1984); as Mickey Rourke's obsessive sexual partner in the controversial *9½ Weeks* (1986); and as Bruce Willis' boozy dinner partner in the comedy *Blind Date* (1987).

Basinger says she was disappointed with the reaction to *9½ Weeks* in the United States, although the movie became a hit around the world. She still receives letters from women who admired the story's nonsense approach to female sexuality.

Problems

The movie ran into censor problems in the United States because of her sizzling love scenes with Rourke. Before the movie could be released it had to be re-edited and some footage deleted. The reviews were scathing and the picture did poorly in the United States, although it has had a healthy life on the video circuit.

"It left me a wreck, emotionally and physically," says Basinger. "During shooting, we had our days of ego problems and ups and downs. But no one ever saw the real movie. There are four or five pirated versions. I have eight hours — I hear there are 12 hours."

Shooting *Nadine* couldn't have been more different, she says.



Kim Basinger stars in the title role in *Nadine*, comedy from Robert Benton.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I'm a big fan of high school football. (My son's the quarterback.) I think the doctors throw kids out of the game too quickly. What do you think? Are there any medical association rules involved in these decisions?

ANSWER: While there is no set of rules, there is a set of guidelines that will help keep your son and his teammates out of serious danger when they are injured on the field. In any contact sport, particularly football, there is a potential for significant injury. Many of the usual injuries are orthopedic in nature, but there is also a real risk of serious injuries to the larynx, abdomen, eyes and teeth. The doctors who monitor games must be fully trained in field-side medicine and have the ultimate responsibility for the well-being of the athletes. A player should be eliminated from competition for the day if any of the following things happen:

1. Unconsciousness, no matter how short a period of time.
2. Head trauma that results in more than 10 seconds of dazed or inappropriate responses.
3. Any complaint of numbness or tingling.

CONTACT SPORTS CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY

4. Obvious swelling, with the rare exception when it is only fingers that are affected.

5. Impaired range of motion, pain within the normal range of motion, or decreased strength through the normal range of motion.

6. Bleeding, other than minor cuts and scrapes.

The sports doctor also should disqualify a player if he or she suffers an injury that cannot be immediately diagnosed, or if there is obvious loss of a function, such as sight, the ability to move an arm, etc. If an athlete requires help getting off the field, he or she should certainly not be allowed back on.

And, naturally, no matter what the coach says, or how valuable the player is to the team, if an athlete complains of an injury or inability to participate, the player should be disqualified. While you may think the doctors are being overly cautious, and maybe some are, there are rare instances every so often in which football players die of injuries suffered during the game. I know it can be very disappointing for both the player and the fans when an athlete is thrown off the

field for what appears to be a minor injury, but I say it's better to play it safe.

ACROSS MY DESK: Despite the influence of religion and mortality, laws and social pressure, the most effective force on the sexual experiences of the unmarried may well be the fear of disease. In the Abbott Report, sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, 80 per cent of the singles interviewed declared a fear of becoming infected by a sexually transmitted disease. That meant an end to the free-swinging sex life for three-fourths of them, and 15 per cent admitted that they had been celibate for the past year. Despite the increasing use of condoms (26 per cent said they use them), the general attitudes in the environment of the unknown risks of a new partner, and the real fear of the tragic outcome for AIDS sufferers, reflect those of yesteryear, when society's actions more closely paralleled its moral teachings. I can't help but wonder where the attitudes of tomorrow may be, when medical science can successfully combat these diseases and when an AIDS cure is discovered.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES.

First Western film made in China since the revolution

By Richard Lormand

NEW YORK. (Reuters) Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci, who created a sensation with *Last Tango in Paris* in 1972, has returned to the spotlight with *The Last Emperor*.

Bertolucci's first film in six years, this "epic" treatment of modern China has been cited by virtually every US critic as one of the year's best.

"There are two great loves in this movie — one for cinema and one for China," the 47-year-old director said.

"The Last Emperor" chronicles the life of Pu Yi, who ascended to the throne in Imperial China in 1908 aged three, and died 59 years later, a humble gardener.

Made in English, it is the first Western feature film about China made in the country itself since the Communist revolution in 1949. And it is the first film ever shot in Peking's Forbidden City, the ancient home of Pu Yi and other Chinese rulers.

"The Last Emperor" is an epic on the grandest scale, with some 19,000 Chinese extras and 9,000 costumes.

Bringing Pu Yi's autobiography, "From Emperor To Citizen," to the screen took over four years, \$25 million and a crew of Italian, British and Chinese technicians.

As the child emperor of the Manchu dynasty, Pu Yi lived among concubines and eunuchs inside the Forbidden City until he was deposed in 1911, when the Nationalists took over.

The adult Pu Yi lived the decadent life of a playboy and served as a puppet emperor for the Japanese in Manchuria in the late 1930s. He was sent to a Chinese prison in 1945 as the Japanese empire crumbled at the end of World War Two.

After nine years, he was "remoulded" by the communists and worked as a gardener until his death in 1967.

Chinese-American John Lone, who starred in *Year Of The Dragon*, portrays Pu Yi from adolescence to his death. Peter Onorato plays Pu Yi's Scottish tutor and Chinese actress Joan Chen portrays the

Bertolucci returns to glory



Richard Wu as Pu Yi, toddling out to greet his massed army of servants in the Forbidden City.

emperor's wife.

The crowd scenes — shot by Oscar-winning cinematographer Vittorio Storaro — include the coronation of the child-emperor in the Hall of Supreme Harmony. Pu Yi's wedding and the expulsion of the eunuchs from court by the new republic's leaders.

"The movie is an epic," said Bertolucci. "But instead of being about a hero, it is about an anti-hero."

Opposite "He is absolutely the opposite of a Western man, who normally goes from being a doorman to being general manager," added Bertolucci, whose *The Spider's Stratagem* and *The Conformist* also dealt with political and social upheaval.

But the director said he was certain that audiences would have no trouble relating to the "strange itinerary" of China's last emperor.

"When you see him as a baby, you identify with him," he said. "Everyone is an emperor at home as a child."

The screenplay had to be approved by China's culture ministry. The Chinese considered Pu Yi's story a morality tale, with the hero becoming freer as an ordinary citizen.

Bertolucci said the Chinese government also gave its nod of approval to the completed film after special showings. But theatrical release in China itself is undecided.

Release there, he said, would be deeply satisfying.

Bertolucci's 1990, the 1977 four-hour Italian epic starring Robert De Niro, and 1979's *Luna*, an erotic mother-and-son story starring Jill Clayburgh, were box-office disappointments.

These were followed by the unsuccessful *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man* in 1981.

The lukewarm reception to those three films forced Bertolucci to look toward the east.

"I was so frustrated," he said. "I wanted to go far away." Bertolucci believes he was allowed to film *The Last Emperor* in China because of

the social and political liberalisation under Deng Xiaoping.

Bertolucci thinks there is not the capacity for change in his native Italy, which last February finally lifted its 11-year ban on *Last Tango*, a frank portrayal of a relationship between a middle-aged man and a young woman.

That rigidity, he said, has hurt Italian cinema.

"Italian cinema is a kind of agony. It lasted for so long that it has become normal. There is agony, but no death."

For his next film, Bertolucci is considering adaptations of Paul Bowles' novel, *The Sheltering Sky*, the story of an American expatriate in Morocco after World War Two, and Andre Malraux's "Man's Fate."

Malraux's 1933 novel, set during the 1927 Shanghai uprising, was his first choice before *The Last Emperor*. The subject matter, however, touched too many political sores and the Chinese wouldn't give him permission to film it.

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Aides give the proposals little chance of winning approval

Reagan will ask Congress to reform budget process

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Reuters) President Reagan says he will once again ask Congress to reform the nation's lengthy annual budget process, but even his own aides give the proposals little chance of winning approval.

The Democratic Party-controlled Congress has turned down the reforms repeatedly in the past and 1988 is an election year — the Republican Reagan's last as President after serving the legal maximum of two four-year terms.

Outlined

Two of the proposals Reagan outlined in the annual State of the Union Speech last night would shift the balance of power on spending decisions to the White House from Congress.

A third would force massive spending cuts that would pose major political problems for law-

makers seeking re-election. In addition to the presidency being up for grabs in November, one-third of the 100 Senate seats and all of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be contested.

The budget process has become increasingly bitter in recent years as Reagan has blamed Congress for excessive spending and congressional leaders have faulted the White House for preparing politically unworkable budget plans.

The non-stop sniping has slowed the process to a crawl.

Last year, for example, the budget for the fiscal year that began on October 1 was not in place until late December. As the wrangling went on, the dollar, already hit by a stubbornly high US trade deficit, came under further pressure on foreign exchange markets.

This year, administration officials have predicted the budget process will be less contentious because the White House and congressional leaders have already agreed on the basic outlines of the coming year's federal budget.

A White House-Congress budget summit aimed at calming financial markets after the October 19 Wall Street crash, called for a \$76 billion budget deficit cut over two years. But election year passions could still derail that accord and restore the usual chaos to the 1988 budgetary bargaining.

In his message to Congress, Reagan asked legislators to alter the US constitution to require a balanced federal budget and to give him the power to block individual items in lengthy spending bills.

He also proposed changing

Congress' internal budget process in a way that would, for the first time, give the President an official role in that process. The procedural change would make Congress' annual budget resolution a so-called joint resolution rather than a concurrent resolution.

Action

While a concurrent resolution simply expresses the sense of Congress and requires no further action after passage by both chambers, a joint resolution requires the President's signature before it becomes effective.

The reform, which has previously been proposed but never brought to a vote in Congress, would thus give the President a veto over what has until now been exclusively up to Congress.

The change would be important because the budget resolu-

tion establishes an overall ceiling for government spending bills and also allocates the spending total among the various congressional committees that make the myriad individual spending decisions.

Presidential authority to block individual items in spending bills, called a "line-item veto," would also be a significant change, shifting the final say over most budget matters to the White House from Capitol Hill.

At present the President has a choice only between approving the entire contents of a lengthy spending bill approved by Congress, or vetoing the entire measure.

Although proposed repeatedly by Reagan, the line-item veto has also never come to a vote in Congress during his presidency.

A constitutional amendment

to balance the budget has made it to the voting stage, but neither chamber has approved such an amendment during the Reagan years.

While the goal of a balanced federal budget is publicly praised by many in Congress, few lawmakers would jump for the chance actually to balance the budget any time soon.

Considerably

Though the Federal Budget deficit has fallen considerably from its \$221 billion peak in fiscal 1986, it remains in the region of \$150 billion, and lawmakers envisioning spending cuts of that magnitude would rightly fear for their re-election this year.

Even President Reagan, whose promise of a balanced budget was central to his 1980 presidential campaign, has never actually submitted a balanced budget plan to Congress.

Banks grapple with Latin American debt problem

Bahrain's offshore banks to boost reserves

BAHRAIN, Jan 26, (Reuters) Bahrain's major banks, amongst the biggest in the Gulf, will take decisions this week to boost their reserves against bad debts to cope with the burden posed by \$3 billion worth of Latin American loans.

But bankers said their debt provisions are unlikely to match reserve levels set by European and US competitors.

A controversial home-spun proposal to hive off problem loans into a holding company looks set to be shelved and banks are expected to concentrate instead on boosting reserves as far as possible from relatively weak operating earnings.

Muddle

"Bahrain's banks are under-provided, but they can do little about it and will have to muddle through," one banker said.

The island's 65 offshore banks cut their teeth on a diet of Latin American lending during heady expansion in the late 1970s, but payments problems coincided

with a Middle East recession, robbing them of the chance to salt away provisions.

The coming week sees a series of board meetings in Bahrain as bank executives and shareholders, often Gulf governments, decide just how to handle provisions in the 1987 balance sheet.

The recipe that will emerge when results are announced in February is likely to combine a modest increase in provisions with measures to strengthen the banks' capital base.

A swirl of publicity has surrounded bad debts to Saudi firms, but Bahrain banks are heavily exposed to Latin America and provisions fall below those in major finance centres.

Innovative

Mexican officials are due in Bahrain on Sunday to discuss their innovative bonds-for-debt swap scheme as part of a world tour to sell the package to creditor banks.

The island's largest bank,

Arab Banking Corp (ABC), is estimated to have outstanding loans to the region of \$1.2 billion, equal to 20 per cent of its debt portfolio.

Its arch rival Gulf International Bank (GIB) has Latin American exposure of \$864 million or about 70 per cent.

Bankers said a lead by US bank Citicorp last year, when it added \$3 billion dollars to Third World loan provisions, led to joint work by ABC and GIB on setting up a company into which they could sell problem loans.

Divided

While the idea is not totally dead, it has sharply divided Bahrain's banking community, with many bankers arguing it would not solve the underlying problem of non-performing assets.

"Accounting sleight of hand," was one banker's judgement. The debt would have been sold at 100 cents in the dollar, more than double its value in the so-

called "secondary market" where banks trade debt with each other at a heavy discount.

But the purchase of loans by a holding company would also have required banks to lend to the company to finance deals.

Radical

"Any self-respecting accountant or auditor would question the status of loans made to the company if it has just paid 100 cents in the dollar for assets that are worth less than 50 on a secondary market," said one banker set against the deal.

"No matter how you dress it up, the problem won't go away." One small Bahrain bank did make the problem go away, but it was also a radical solution that was little wider application.

United Gulf Bank (UGB) this week said it had taken a \$20.5 million loss or "hit" in 1987 accounts to rid itself of all its Latin American debt. It sold its entire \$36.2 million portfolio on the secondary market.

US durable goods orders jump 6.7pc

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Reuters) Orders received by manufacturers of durable goods surged by 6.7 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said today.

The large increase, which far surpassed expectations of a 0.2 per cent gain, largely reflected orders for aircraft, government officials said.

For 1987 as a whole, durable goods orders rose 7.8 per cent after increasing by 0.5 per cent in 1986.

The 6.7 per cent increase to a seasonally adjusted \$118.69 billion was the fourth consecutive monthly increase and the largest since a 6.9 per cent rise in September 1986.

It followed a modest 0.1 per cent increase in November. The 7.8 per cent increase last year in orders for durable goods, which are designed to last three years or more, was the biggest since a 13.0 per cent rise in 1984. Although aircraft orders, a

volatile category, accounted for more than two-thirds of December's rise, the Commerce Department said new order increases were widespread within major industries.

Excluding another unpredictable category, defence equipment, orders were up 6.0 per cent last month after rising 0.2 per cent in November.

The strength in durable goods orders was further evidence that the overall economy did not slow down much in the weeks after October's stock market crash and that the manufacturing sector in particular ended the year with business booming.

Economists say manufacturers are finally reaping the benefits of a three-year-long decline in the dollar which has made their goods more competitive on world markets.

Growth in exports is thought to have fuelled another quarter of strong economic growth between October and December.

World Business Summary

Shipping losses down

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters) Fewer ships were lost last year than in 1986 but the gain was overshadowed by the Gulf war and ferry disasters off Belgium and the Philippines when hundreds of people died, an underwriters' association said today. The report by the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) said losses in 1987 dropped to 139 merchant ships totalling 1,178,900 gross tons against 156 ships totalling 1,207,422 tons the previous year. This, however, was in a year which saw the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster — the sinking of the Manila-bound ferry Dona Paz last month.

There were only 26 survivors from 1,600 people known to be aboard after the ship caught fire. The ILU said the vessel could have been carrying twice that number. It also cited nearly 200 deaths when the British Ferry Herald of Free Enterprise sank off Zeebrugge, Belgium last March.

The ILU said there were 170 attacks on ships in the Gulf, up 50 per cent on 1986. But naval escorts had limited the extent of the damage caused. Aviation meanwhile had its second-worst year on record in terms of cash losses, the ILU said. In 1987, 20 Western-built Jet airliners valued at \$258 million were lost in accidents. A death toll at 392 compared with as many as 1,534 deaths in 1985, when there were record aviation cash losses of \$400 million. The ILU represents British and overseas insurance companies accounting for about half of London's shipping business.

Egypt willing to cut oil output

CAIRO, Jan 26, (Reuters) Egypt is willing to cut its crude oil production from the current level to help Opec stabilise the volatile world market, Petroleum Minister Abdel-Hadi Kandeel said today. In a statement released by his office, Kandeel said if all members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) held to their present production ceiling, prices would rise to an average of \$18 a barrel. Egypt is completely ready to further squeeze its output, when it deems this necessary... apart from what is needed for domestic consumption, which is rising now because of a two-month-old cold wave," the minister said. Opec agreed in December on total output of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for all members except Iraq. Kandeel said that to shore up prices, Egypt would not bring more supplies into the world market than it already does. Non-Opec Egypt cut production by 30,000 bpd early last year to help the 13-member oil group and now exports about one third of its output of 870,000 bpd.

Oman to boost gas exploration

MUSCAT, Oman, Jan 26, (AP) Oman, a non-Opec oil producer faced with a 194 million-rial (\$500 million) budget deficit for fiscal 1988, is to step up efforts to develop its state-owned gas industry to save fuel oil, government sources said today.

Six million riyals (\$15 million) will be spent developing three gas production plants this year, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. A 275,000-rial (\$710,000) government study to be carried out over the next five months will review technical and organisational options. The gas network powers defence installations in addition to oil production and light industry, the sources noted. The government announced earlier this month that gas reserves have risen to 9.6 trillion cubic feet, an increase of three trillion cubic feet over figures announced a year ago.

Gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet last year. Oman, which produces 565,000 barrels of oil a day, launched a gas exploration programme in 1984 when oil prices were falling.

ALAHILI BANK AT NEW HEADQUARTERS

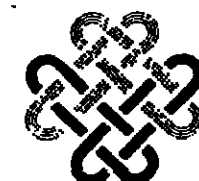
18th Floor Chairman Deputy Chairman & Managing Director	11th Floor Credit Group - Local	4th Floor Seminar Rooms
17th Floor General Manager Deputy General Manager	10th Floor Credit Group - International	3rd Floor Personnel Training & Development
16th Floor Economic Research Shares Registration	9th Floor Securities Money Market and Foreign Exchange	2nd Floor Processing
15th Floor Internal Audit Organization, Policies and Systems	8th Floor Assembly Hall	1st Floor Processing
14th Floor Branches Control - Marketing Visa - ATM Cards	7th Floor Financial Control	Mezzanine II Telex Mail and Telex
13th Floor Legal Affairs	6th Floor Accounting Administrative Services	Mezzanine I Commercial Operations - Letters of Credit Letters of Guarantee - Bills and Loans
12th Floor Credit Group - Local	5th Floor Management Information Services	Ground Floor Main Branch - Customers and Cash Services Foreign Transfers

AlAhili Bank of Kuwait has great pleasure in announcing the transfer of its Head-Office to new premises at Safat Square.

We shall be delighted to welcome all our valued customers at our new premises effective Saturday, January 30th, 1988.

Our present Head-Office at Mubarakia will serve as a new Branch under the name of 'Mubarakia Branch', where a complete range of banking services will be available for your convenience.

البنك الأهلي الكويتي (ش.م.ك.)
ALAHILI BANK OF KUWAIT (K.S.C.)



LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		LONDON (Beta Stocks)	
NAME	LAST	NAME	CLOSE OPEN
ABBEY LFE	263/0	A.B. ELECT	341/0 340/0
ALD LYONS	341.0	APV PLC	127/0 128/0
AMSTRAD	139/0	AAH HDLG	115/0 116/0
ARGYLL GP	193/0	AAH HDLG	303/0 302/0
ASDA MFI	170/0	ADDISON G	91/0 91/0
A B FOODS	310/0	ADVEST GP	285/0 286/0
BAA PP	108/0	ALISA	143/0 145/0
BAT	268/0	ALEX WRKW	165/0 163/0
BAT INDS	433/0	ALLIANCE	773/0 783/0
BARCLAYS	495/0	ALD COLL	121/0 121/0
BASS	800/0	ALD PLAN	54/0 54/0
BEAZER	190/0	AMARI PLC	149/0 151/0
BEECHAMS	463/0	AMEC PLC	331/0 330/0
BET ORD	242/0	AMER TRUS	114/0 115/0
BITCC PLC	338/0	AMERSHAM	456/0 457/0
BLUE ARMY	98/0	ANGIA TV	399/0 398/0
BLUE CIRC	432/0	ANSBACHER	67/0 68/0
BOC GP	395/0	APP HOL	350/0 350/0
BOOTS CO	248/0	APPLYARD	345/0 348/0
BPB INDS	262/0	AR-ICOT	100/0 101/0
BR COM	330/0	ARSAKONG	144/0 145/0
BR AIRWAY	166/0	ANGLO O'S	384/0 385/0
BR AEROSP	363/0	ADJAS. A.	86/0 86/0
BR GAS PP	135/0	ASHLEY	129/0 130/0
B.P. NEW	257/0	AUTO SEC	257/0 258/0
BR TELCOM	232/0	AVIS EUR	285/0 286/0
BRITOL	468/0	AVON RUBB	629/0 629/0
BUNZL	165/0	BBA GP	146/0 148/0
BURMAN OIL	236/0	BSS INTL	64/0 64/0
CABLE&MIR	344/0	BAILL JAP	412/0 416/0
CADBURYS	256/0	BANKER IT	66/0 67/0
COATS VTY	270/0	BK OF SCO	562/0 562/0
COMM UNIT	340/0	BARKER DO	135/0 136/0
COMS GOLD	705/0	BART DEV	178/0 180/0
COOKSONS	540/0	B.MENHILL	150/0 150/0
COURTAULD	323/0	BEJAM GP	189/0 193/0
DALGETY	306/0	BELHAVEN	45/0 45/0
DEE CP	202/0	BELLWAY	222/0 221/0
DIXONS	198/0	BENROSE	210/0 210/0
ENG CHINA	390/0	BENROX HD	32/0 32/0
ENTER OIL	280/0	U-BENNETT	41/0 39/0
FERRANTI	86/0	BENTALLS	166/0 166/0
FISONS	259/0	BERTSFORD	330/0 331/0
GEN ACCID	843/0	BERKELEY	288/0 287/0
GEN ELEC	158/0	BLACK LE 2	20/2 20/0
GLAXO	020/0	BOASE HAS	258/0 259/0
GRAND	319/0	BODDINGTON	147/0 150/0
GLOBE	137/0	BOOKER PL	408/0 410/0
GRAND MET	445/0	BORTHWICK	54/0 54/0
GUS A	105/0	BOUWHORPE	174/0 175/0
GUARD RYL	860/0	BRAMMER	230/0 231/0
GKN	313/0	BRENT CHE	142/0 142/0
GUINNESS	287/0	BRENT WKR	155/0 156/0
HMMERSA	540/0	BRITANNIC	990/0 990/0
HANSON	133/0	BR ASSETS	66/0 68/0
HAKER SID	471/0	BR LND CO	277/0 280/0
HAWLEY	100/0	BR VITA	435/0 435/0
HILLSDOWN	299/0	BRIXTON E	246/0 247/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1; PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1418.0	1414.0 1421.0	1373.3	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	0	991.8 982.9	957.6	957.6
FT ALL SHR	0	901.57 905.54	870.22	870.22
FT GOV SEC	0	89.39 88.69	88.49	88.49
FT GOLD MN	0	279.1 279.9	302.1	302.1
FT MINES F	0	422.57 432.89	450.65	450.65
FT OIL	0	1750.5 1757.5	1663.6	1663.6
FT MLD DLR	116.46	114.13 113.37	115.04	115.04
FT MLD STG	97.44	94.93 93.56	90.79	90.79
FT MLD LOC	103.51	101.39 100.38	99.08	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. SHARES BELOW HIGHS IN QUIET LATE TRADING

LONDON, JAN 26 - SHARES WERE FIRMER BUT STOOD BELOW THEIR BEST LEVELS OF THE DAY IN SUBDUED LATE TRADING AFTER WALL STREET SHOWED AN EARLY TO-POINT FALL, DEALERS SAID.

STOCKS HAD REACHED THEIR HIGHS AROUND MIDSESSION AFTER THE LATEST CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI) QUARTERLY SURVEY CAME OUT WITH A LESS GLOOMY PICTURE OF THE U.K. INDUSTRY THAN HAD BEEN FEARED BY MANY IN THE MARKET.

THE CBI SAID INDUSTRIALISTS REMAINED OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONTINUED SUSTAINABLE GROWTH BUT ADDED THERE WERE SOME SIGNS OF OVERHEATING. AT 1530 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX STOOD 5.9 POINTS HIGHER AT 1,768.11 AFTER A HIGH OF 1,773.37 AT 1145.

RUMOURS THAT THE CBI REPORT WOULD BE BETTER THAN EXPECTED HAD LIFTED SHARES FROM A MIXED OPENING AND THE ACTUAL PUBLICATION OF THE SURVEY PROMPTED A SMALL FLURRY OF BUYING, DEALERS SAID.

ALTHOUGH TURNOVER REMAINED LOW, OPERATORS SAID IT WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY.

THE CBI SAID A BALANCE OF 11 PCT OF RESPONDENTS SAID THEY WERE MORE OPTIMISTIC ON THE GENERAL OUTLOOK THAN THEY WERE FOUR MONTHS AGO. THE SURVEY SHOWED A SHARP DROP IN OPTIMISM ABOUT EXPORT ORDERS, HOWEVER, AFTER THE DOLLAR'S SLUMP AT THE END OF 1987. ONLY 15 PCT OF FIRMS SAID THEY EXPECTED EXPORTS TO RISE.

London Gold

LONDON, JAN 26 - GOLD BULLION REGAINED SOME OF THE GROUND LOST EARLIER IN THE DAY, BUT STILL ENDED THE DAY AT ITS LOWEST CLOSING LEVEL SINCE NOVEMBER 20.

GOLD CLOSED THREE DLRS ABOVE THE DAY'S LOWS AT 470.00/470.50 DLRS AN OUNCE, COMPARED WITH OPENING AND PREVIOUS CLOSING LEVELS OF 470.80/471.30 AND 471.00/471.50 DLRS.

DEALERS SAID THE METAL HAD TRADED IN MODERATE TO ACTIVE CONDITIONS JUST AHEAD OF NEW YORK'S OPENING WHEN SELLING PRESSURE WAS AT ITS GREATEST ON THE LONDON MARKET.

HOWEVER, SELLING INTEREST HAD DEVELOPED AT LOWER LEVELS IN LINE WITH NEW YORK FUTURES, THEY SAID.

London Money Market

LONDON, JAN 26 - MONEY MARKET RATES FIRMED IN ACTIVE TRADING, REVERSING THE RECENT TREND AS STERLING CAME UNDER DOWNWARD PRESSURE AHEAD OF THURSDAY'S U.K. TRADE FIGURES.

MOST OF THE GAINS WERE POSTED IN THE FIRST HOUR OF BUSINESS, WITH DEALERS CITING PROFIT-TAKING AFTER LAST WEEK'S SHARP FALLS AND WORRIES ABOUT THE POUND FOR THE RATE RISE.

SOME DEALERS WERE CONCERNED AT STERLING'S APPARENT VULNERABILITY AHEAD OF WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE ANOTHER POOR SET OF TRADE FIGURES, EVEN IF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT IS SMALLER THAN NOVEMBER'S 595 MLN STG SHORTFALL AS MOST ANALYSTS ARE FORECASTING.

Advertising in the Financial Pages?		Wall Street Market Report	
For further details contact:		New York, Jan 26 - Wall Street's 43-point rise on Monday gave way to light profit taking encouraged by bond market weakness and investors' continued discomfort with confusing economic data. A 6.7 pct rise in durable goods orders, a seemingly strong economic clue, provided no lift.	
Arab Times Advertising Department 4816326/7.		The durable goods report, known to be a volatile statistics, rekindled inflation fears in the bond market, which weighed on Stock Market sentiment, traders said.	
		In response, investors assumed a defensive posture. The Dow Industrials fell 18 points to 1927. Declines led advances two-one and volume was a light 58 mln shares.	
		INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES	

Wall Street Statistics 'Composite'		Dow Jones Plus Indices	
NYSE HIGHEST VOLUME		LAST	
SEC STARS	31	1,925.56	20.89
SEC STARS	50 1/4	1,946.45	1,926.07
SEC STARS	23	744.43	4.86
SEC STARS	44 1/4	183.44	0.71
SEC STARS	29 1/2	715.35	6.17
SEC STARS	19 1/2	140.46	1.05
SEC STARS	18 1/2	250.04	2.12
SEC STARS	17 1/2	167.38	1.34
SEC STARS	16 1/2	265.76	1.29
SEC STARS	15 1/2	339.59	0.92
SEC STARS	14 1/2	418.04	0.18
SEC STARS	13 1/2	429.97	0.85
SEC STARS	12 1/2	340.18	1.51
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SEC STARS	50 1/4	1,946.45	1,926.07
SEC STARS	23	744.43	4.86
SEC STARS	44 1/4	183.44	0.71
SEC STARS	29 1/2	715.35	6.17
SEC STARS	19 1/2	140.46	1.05
SEC STARS	18 1/2	250.04	2.12
SEC STARS	17 1/2	167.38	1.34
SEC STARS	16 1/2	265.76	1.29
SEC STARS	15 1/2	339.59	0.92
SEC STARS	14 1/2	418.04	0.18
SEC STARS	13 1/2	429.97	0.85
SEC STARS	12 1/2	340.18	1.51
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Wall Street Market Report		Dow Jones Plus Indices	
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Wall Street Market Report	
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Pope urges governments to cut military spending

ROME, Jan 26, (Reuters): Pope John Paul called today for an end to excessive military spending and said nuclear disarmament would be meaningless unless the money freed went to helping the world's poorest.

In a speech marking 10 years of work by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), the Pope welcomed last month's US-Soviet nuclear arms treaty and said he hoped it would lead to more radical disarmament.

"But all of this will have no meaning if we do not reach a larger degree of economic cooperation benefiting the most disadvantaged regions of the world," he told Ifad's 142-nation governing council.

Resources
He urged nations to "dare to renounce excessive military expenditures" so as to devote maximum resources to international cooperation and to collaborate in the work of "giving to peace the name of development".

Praising Ifad's work, he said an effective solution to hunger could not be found by food aid but only by giving the poor the means to help fight starvation themselves.

Development efforts had to place respect for universal human dignity above the pursuit of profit or any "hegemonic temptation," he said.

The Pope's remarks reflected wide support for the Rome-based agency including from Western critics of other UN agencies, in its provision of grants and loans for small-scale, self-help projects among the most disadvantaged of the world's rural poor.

In the past 10 years Ifad has lent \$2.4 billion to 89 developing countries for projects it says have benefited 110 million people.

The grants and loans, most on highly concessional terms, have been matched by a further \$7.5 billion from co-financiers and voluntary contributions from beneficiary countries, Ifad says.

Gulf invests \$38b in industrial sector

DOHA, Jan 26, (Opecna): The Gulf region witnessed a substantial industrial growth over the past two decades, with the establishment of thousands of projects, ranging from petrochemicals and steel to food industries.

According to a study prepared by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic) — grouping five Opec countries Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and non-Opec Bahrain and Oman — about 4,900 projects have been carried out with total investments of more than \$38 billion.

The report said that continuing growth of the industrial sector in the Gulf countries in future would hinge substantially on the ability to define the industries which would be able to achieve the diversification of income.

The study warned that the inability to utilise available production capacities, the shrinking revenues and profits of existing industries and the drop in the industrial growth rate would all lead to curbing diversification of national income.

The report showed that increasing numbers of intermediate industries were facing the problem of inability to utilise available production capacity.

Projects
Despite the fact that some existing industrial projects in the Gulf countries were utilising their available production capacity, the failure to use all available production capacities have been growing dramatically, the study said.

Dollar gains and gold drops again

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): The US dollar strengthened against the major currencies in European trading today. Gold prices fell for the third straight session.

Foreign exchange dealers said the dollar was helped by better-than-expected figures for US durable goods orders, which were up 6.7 per cent last month against an expected rise of less than 1 per cent.

Impact
But the dealers said the improvement wouldn't have much impact after today as the indicator was not important enough. They said the large US trade deficit would have to show a substantial fall before the dollar could rise considerably above its current low levels.

In London, one British pound cost \$1.7675 late today, cheaper for buyers than Monday's late 1.7735.

Other late rates in Europe compared with late Monday:

- 1.6775 West German marks, unchanged
- 1.3600 Swiss francs, up from 1.3595
- 6.6575 French francs, up from 5.6495
- 1.8845 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8825
- 1.233.25 Italian lire, up from 1.230.37
- 1.2807 Canadian dollars, up from 1.2797

President Reagan's State of the Union message failed to lift sluggish world money markets because he came up with no new initiative to correct huge US trade and budget deficits, dealers reported.

"People would have thought at this stage he would have said something more constructive for the dollar," said Mark Brett, economist with stockbrokers Barclays De Zoete Wedd in London.

In stock markets, Tokyo ended higher following a 43-point advance on Wall Street yesterday and most European shares were also slightly up. But dealers said trading was hesitant and the volume of business was often thin.

Subdued

British currency dealers said dollar trading was subdued with investors now waiting for news due on Wednesday of the rate at which US Gross National Product expanded in the last three months of 1987 — an important indicator of how America's economy performed after the Black Monday October 19 crash.

"There's been a wild flurry on every GNP figure (in 1987)," Brett at Barclays De Zoete's said, noting that actual figures on previous occasions had differed widely from market expectations.

The median market forecast for real GNP growth in the fourth quarter is a rise of 3.5 per cent, against third quarter growth of 4.3 per cent.

Markets will scrutinise the numbers for any sign that the effects of the October stock market crash are working their way through into economic performance, analysts said.

London dealers said a lower-than-expected figure could hit the dollar and raise the spectre of US higher interest rates.

One said: "The market's showing a reluctance to make any headway at the moment and I don't think you'll see much change in prices ahead of the US fourth quarter GNP figures."

London's blue-chip share barometer, the FTSE 100-share index, ended at 1767.3 points, just 5.1 points higher than yesterday close.

In early Frankfurt business, leading West German shares firmed then eased as investors sold to take profits. "As soon as price rises a little bit, foreigners cash in," one Frankfurt broker said. "Turnover is extremely small," said another.

Japanese work on compatible computers

TOKYO, Jan 26, (UPI): Three major Japanese electronics companies say they are making significant steps forward in an effort to develop standardised computers and related chips for use in the 1990s.

"We are making steady progress in our joint undertaking and we hope to start commercial production of a series of standardised computers and peripheral devices by the middle of next year," said a spokesman for Fujitsu Ltd., Japan's top computer manufacturer.

The group consists of Fujitsu and two major electronic equipment makers, Hitachi Ltd. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

The three companies are among 95 Japanese manufacturers that support the Tron structure, Tron, which stands for real-time operating system

nucleus concept, was proposed by Tokyo University Prof Ken Sakamura to standardise computer systems to meet growing demands for high performance equipment with enhanced functions and capabilities.

"We decided to take on the development of 32-bit computers and related chips because we believe that 32-bit chips will take over from 16-bit chips commonly used at present and dominate the microprocessor area in the next decade," Fujitsu said.

Success

The initial success of their joint efforts was made public recently when the three companies announced development of the high-performance 32-bit Gmicio/200, or global microprocessor and peripheral large-scale integration circuits.

The computer was developed by Hitachi and the related chips by Fujitsu.

The three companies now are working to complete Gmicio/100 and Gmicio/300 by early next year.

"Not only does the Gmicio/200 take pride of place as first in the series of Gmicio family processors to reach full development, but it also marks the first time a microprocessor has been developed that is fully compatible with Tron specifications," an announcement by the group said.

Suitable

They said the Japanese Education Ministry has made it known it plans to use the Tron format software for educational purposes.

Operating systems or basic

software for computers mainly have been developed in the United States, but they are said not to be suitable for processing the Japanese language.

Hitachi said the Gmicio/200 features the most up-to-date computer design and semiconductor technologies presently available, such as distributed memory storing, multi-queue pipelining and horizontal microprogramming.

The large-scale integration circuits developed for the Gmicio/200 include a direct memory access controller, interrupt request controller and tag random access memory for high-speed data processing.

The companies said they plan to expand a family of Gmicio series and peripheral chips to meet demand for standardised systems.

Saudis offer discounts to US oil customers

NICOSIA, Jan 26, (UPI): Saudi Arabia is offering discounts to its US oil company customers but not the kingdom's European or Japanese clients and some oil companies from Japan are negotiating with Kuwait for 'price relief', the Middle East Economic Survey said today.

"In Kuwait negotiations with Japanese buyers still are proceeding without having reached any definite conclusion as yet," the authoritative newsletter said. "Nevertheless, observers feel that agreement could well be reached at an area of compromise," the survey said.

"In Saudi Arabia there is as yet no indication that market-related price relief has spread beyond US customers—the four Aramco Majors plus, reportedly, Ashland and Marathon," the survey continued.

Prices

Mees said under the "price relief arrangement" that apparently applies for January and February the Aramco partners are invoiced at official prices but actually pay in line with a spot crude market-related formula based on spot prices for sales to the United States. Brent for Europe and Dubai for the Far East, and the Aramco partners have nominated their full contractual volumes.

World oil prices have remained relatively stable over the past week at about \$2.25 below the Opec official level of

around \$18 a barrel. But the survey says "the oil market remains in a state of general directional confusion, sandwiched as it is between indications of reduced crude output on the one hand and expectations of further moves towards market-related pricing on the other."

Refused

In Saudi Arabia, "European and Japanese customers so far firmly have been refused the same treatment" as the US clients, it said.

"The European and Japanese clients have been tending to cancel or reduce their nominations as a result," the Nicosia-based publication said.

But in Kuwait, the Kuwait

Petroleum Company is understood to have improved its offer to Oman-Dubai spot price minus 50 cents for Ahmadi, plus 25 cents premium for deliveries at Khor Fakkan, as compared with an initial position of Oman-Dubai minus 70 cents with zero premium for Khor Fakkan, Mees said.

However, this still has not proved acceptable for the Japanese who originally asked for Oman-Dubai minus 60 cents with a premium in the order of 20 cents for Khor Fakkan, the survey reported.

Gulf-based oil industry sources told United Press International the Mees account of negotiations in Kuwait was accurate.

North Cyprus looks to tourism to boost economy

NICOSIA, Jan 25, (Reuters): Offering sun-drenched beaches and relics of ancient settlements, the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) anticipates record numbers of tourists this year to boost its hard-pressed economy.

Officials say the 1988 target is 175,000 tourists, compared with a record 160,000 last year, mainly from Turkey but with sizeable numbers from European Economic Community (EEC) countries.

Important

"It is envisaged that tourism will be the most important sector in our economy. Our new economic programme envisages all necessary measures to be taken for the tourism sector," said Ahmed Baysal of the State Planning Organisation.

Officials say the administration plans to increase the number of tourist beds from about 4,400 at present to 10,000 by 1992, when 300,000 visitors are expected.

Potential developers are offered long-term leases of public land, duty-free import of

building equipment and machinery, tax incentives and profit repatriation.

A big tourist attraction is the use of the rapidly-declining Turkish lira — a good beach-front hotel costs around 25,000 lira (\$24) a night — although this is held largely responsible for inflation, running last year at a provisional 43 per cent.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared the TRNC in 1983, nine years after Turkish troops invaded and secured the northern third of Cyprus after a coup inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Its economy has been kept afloat with cash injections by Turkey, the only country to officially recognise it.

One drawback to tourism, which Baysal said drew in a net income of \$48.5 million in 1986, is air transport.

Neither of the TRNC airports, Ercan and Gecitkale, are recognised as international and the only air link with the outside world is through Turkey on planes chartered from Turkish airlines.

Economic growth date back to 1963 at the start of a decade of

bitter inter-communal strife.

"We lost everything... we had no trade, no industry, no commerce," TRNC leader Rauf Denktaş told Reuters.

"We were buyers from Greek merchants and sellers to Turkish Cypriots. In order to buy from Greek merchants we had to put hard currency which he borrowed from Turkey into the Central Bank of Cyprus which the Greeks had taken over," he said.

Greek Cypriots say they developed much of the original tourist infrastructure before the

partition of the island.

Apart from tourism, the other bright spot on the economic horizon is light industry.

Baysal said there were 460 industrial units producing a range of goods and items from tobacco, paper and textiles to chemicals in 1986, compared with 270 in 1975.

He said 45 per cent of the TRNC's exports go to Turkey and another 45 per cent to European countries, mainly Britain. The rest ends up in the Middle East.

Uptron Colour Picture Tubes offers shares

UPTON Colour Picture Tubes Ltd (UCPT), the latest addition to the Uptron family, was incorporated on November 8, 1985, and is currently engaged in the setting up of a plant for the manufacture of 7.50,000 colour picture tubes per year at Sahibabad, near Delhi.

In order to part finance the project cost of Rs 117.50 crores, the company is coming out with a public issue of 1,92,90,000 equity shares of Rs 10/- each, for cash at par (aggregating Rs 19.29 crores), which is scheduled to open for subscription on February 1, 1988.

Out of the public issue, an amount of Rs 4 crores (40 lacs equity shares of Rs 10/- each for cash at par) is reserved for preferential allotment to Non-Resident Indians and persons of Indian origin resident abroad, on repatriation basis.

The NRI issue opened for subscription yesterday.

K. Bhushan, the vice chairman and managing director of the firm, who is currently visiting Kuwait has said the company has been promoted by the UP Electronic Corporation Ltd (Uptron) in technical and financial collaboration with Toshiba Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan.

Uptron was set up in 1974 with the objective of developing the electronics industry in UP.

It subsequently set up five other wholly owned subsidiary companies engaged in the manufacture of various components of electronics and in September



K. Bhushan

last year, all the subsidiary companies were amalgamated with Uptron.

The board of directors is headed by Padmashri C. P. Joshi (chairman) and K. Bhushan and under their stewardship, the turnover of Uptron increased 15 times in six years from Rs 6.74 crores in 1980-81 to Rs 97 crores in 1986-87.

Uptron had a paid-up capital of Rs 27.77 crores with reserves and surplus of Rs 1.87 crores as on September 30, 1987.

The projected turnover of Uptron for the next two years is Rs 151 crores and Rs 300 crores respectively.

Products

Toshiba Corporation has come to be recognised as one of the leading electronics manufacturing companies worldwide,

Arabs may help Egypt over US military debt

BAHRAIN, Jan 26, (Reuters): Gulf Arab states may step in to help Egypt if President Hosni Mubarak fails to persuade the United States this week to write off some of Cairo's military debts, bankers said today.

They said several of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which Mubarak visited this month, were studying the possibility of buying part of the debt from Washington and rescheduling it at lower interest rates.

Switched

Egypt owes \$4.5 billion to the United States for arms bought after the late President Anwar Sadat switched allegiance from the Soviet camp to the West in the mid-1970s.

The debt carries an average interest rate of 11.8 per cent, with portions of it as high as 16 per cent. Egyptian officials argue it would be cut as interest rates have dropped sharply in recent years.

Sources close to Mubarak said the president, who arrives in Washington today as part of a tour of his Western allies, would press the Reagan administration to absolve Egypt of at least some of the debt.

Role

They said he would argue Egypt played a strategic political and military role and its stability, vital to US interests in the Middle East, could be undermined if

debts continued to weaken its economy and led to social unrest.

Mubarak visited the six GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — at the beginning of January on a tour marking Egypt's new-found respectability in the Arab world.

The bankers said the Gulf Arabs were considering buying part of the military debt at a discount through regional development funds. It would then be rescheduled at what one banker described as "a more reasonable rate which Cairo could meet."

Egypt has repeatedly defaulted on the debt and last year rescheduled about \$800 million in arrears in a deal delaying payment until June.

Unable

Some bankers said they thought Egypt might even be unable to meet easier repayment terms if Gulf financial groups set a market-related interest rate near the eight per cent level.

But diplomats argued that Cairo could always make repayments in the form of military and other goods which would find a more natural market in the Gulf than in the Western world.

Egypt has a well-developed arms industry and plans to help to boost Kuwait's air defence system, train Gulf Arab officers

and hold arms exhibitions to boost sales.

Sources travelling with Mubarak said he would tell US leaders Cairo could not immediately implement more economic reforms advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while continuing to play a political and military role in the region.

Agreed

Egypt and the IMF agreed in 1987 on several economic reforms in return for emergency funds in a deal which enabled Cairo to reschedule part of its non-military debt to Western governments.

Egypt, with total foreign debts of more than \$40 billion, has so far rescheduled about \$4.3 billion worth of debts with five governments and Egyptian negotiators are now talking to the Scandinavian countries and Britain.

But, in addition to Cairo's decision last May to devalue its exchange rate from 1.35 Egyptian pounds to the dollar to about 2.20 pounds, the IMF wants Cairo to increase electricity prices and raise interest rates.

Bankers said the Egyptian government was reluctant to impose the full IMF prescription. Past attempts to lift subsidies or increase prices led to riots which forced the government to back down.

Japanese capital investments drop

TOKYO, Jan 26, (Kuna): Japanese capital investments, which increased sharply, taking the form of an exodus since 1984, are showing a noted slowdown due mainly to poor performance of the American economy and fears of recession worldwide, economic experts pointed out today.

Japanese firms have been investing heavily in the United States, from \$30 million to \$600 million, depending on the company's size and standing, to an estimated total of \$60 billion until August last year.

One of Japan's top electronic appliances maker has bought CBS, a major American record manufacturer, for \$2 billion only last August.

The Japanese investors have been purchasing buildings, hotels, housing complexes, supermarkets and restaurants in Australia, Canada, Spain and the US, including Hawaii islands, making use of the yen's appreciation and the decline in the dollars value.

Expansion

Due to the rapid economic expansion in the US, Japan's exports showed a yearly increase, while this country's imports marked time because oil prices and other commodities remained at low levels, Japanese economists agreed.

Following Japan's decision to switch from an export-oriented economy to one depending mainly on domestic demand, there are moves to restructure, with major Japanese industries venturing into the US and other countries, including South

Korea and Taiwan.

Japanese factories in these countries have already started exporting their products to the Japanese market and are reaping huge profits, according to Hidetaka Shiozaki, an executive of a major securities company.

He added that most Japanese firms are getting used to export less and depend on home consumption, selling their products in Japan more than to other countries, in addition to importing necessary and consumable commodities.

Another expert, Isamu Tachibana, sees that Japan's trade surplus has at last peaked out, as Japanese exports have been thrown into the doldrums because of loss of price competitiveness, while imports of manufactured goods to Japan have been on the increase recently.

Now that the source of capital has begun to shrink, one of the main factors behind the exodus of Japanese capital will gradually lose strength, he added.

Economist Tatsuo Kurita concurs that with the loss of capital shrinking and domestic demand for funds recovering, the outflow of Japanese capital will slow down in the coming few years, as interest rate differentials are likely to continue to exist between Japan and the United States.

But there are fears that Japanese investors may suffer capital losses depending on the developments in the US treasury bond market and the yen-dollar exchange rate movements.

Shell changes gasoline formula

AMSTERDAM, Jan 26, (Reuters): The Royal Dutch/Shell group said today it is withdrawing a heavily promoted blend of petrol sold in 30 countries because it damaged some car engines.

A spokesman of Shell Nederland said the company would remove an additive to its premium leaded gasoline which was added, Shell said, for smoother running.

But research had now suggested that a secret chemical in the additive, called a "spark-sider", was responsible for burnt inlet valves experienced under Arctic conditions in some engines in Norway and Denmark in the winter of 1986.

Conditions

The spokesman added that it was hard to say under what conditions the blend, promoted in some countries as "Formula Shell", had damaged engines. Problems were also experienced in the tropical heat of Malaysia.

Shell had therefore decided to remove the additive from its premium gasoline worldwide.

Shell unloaded premium and regular and leaded regular had no problems and would continue to have the spark-aiding chemical.

Treasury bills given at average 4.268 pc

KUWAIT'S fourth three-month Treasury bill issue of KD120 million was allotted at an average price of 98.936 for an average yield of 4.268 per cent.

The Kuwait news agency Kuna quoted Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah as saying bids totalling KD163 million were received at prices ranging from 99.043 to 98.647.

The bills, dated Wednesday, are part of a scheme launched in November to finance Kuwait's state budget deficit.

An KD 80 million issue of one-year bonds dated February 3 and carrying interest of 5.5/8 per cent drew requests totalling KD 544.7 million Sheikh Salem said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 26, (Reuters): Market closed for national holiday.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed higher after sluggish sea-trading, helped by improved sentiment in overseas markets. The Hang Seng index ended the day 18.76 points higher at 2,426.05 after a firm opening and a few points slip at midday.

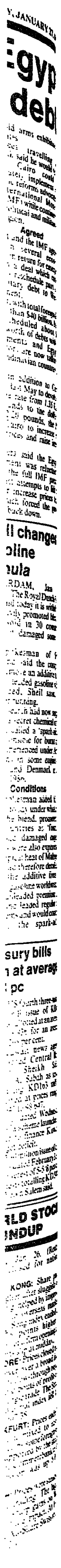
SINGAPORE: Prices closed marginally lower over a broad front on lack of follow-through buying support and bouts of profit-taking in the industrial trade. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.52 points to 907.38.

FRANKFURT: Prices ended a thin session mixed to easier, undermined by some foreign selling but supported by the steady dollar. The Commerzbank index at mid-session was up 5.1 at 1,246.9.

ZURICH: Prices were steady in very quiet trading. The higher dollar and sharp gains on Wall Street had little impact. At 1330 GMT, the All-Share Swiss index was down 2.1.



The chief general manager of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Yahya, recently presented certificates to Nada Al Mansour, Khaled Al Olajman, Jassim Al Mousa and Salem Al Obaid upon successful completion of a one year system engineers development programme. Picture shows the four graduates (seated) with bank officials.

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gyp debt

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Jan. 26. (Re)

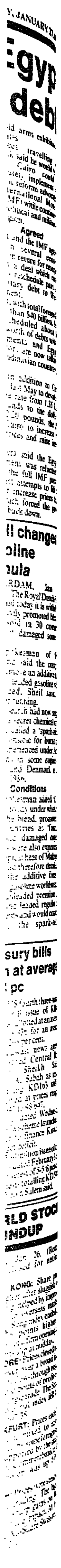
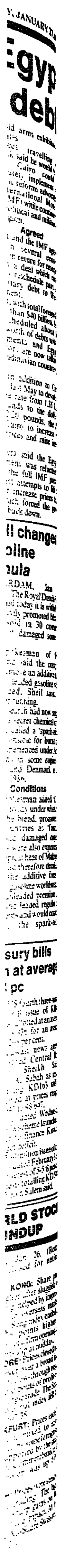
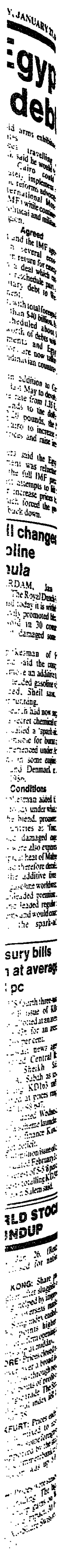
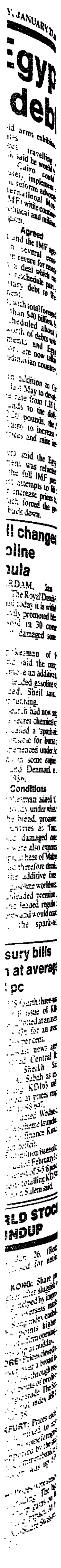
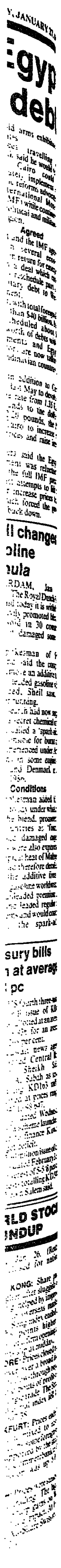
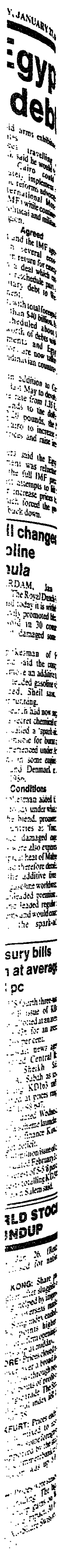
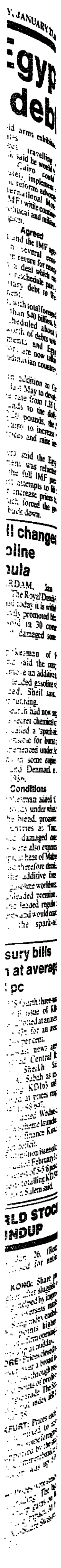
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HONGKONG: Share p- after other slugs- dropped by imp- interests mid- Some minor high- points higher- firm operat- at midday.

DRE: Prices closed- over a broad b- cents of profit- trade. The 20- index fell.

ALFURT: Prices end- wanted to se- some surge- supported by se- interest rates up 71

are close to 20- 1982. The be- 1982 gains 30- 1982 prices. At 1982's double.

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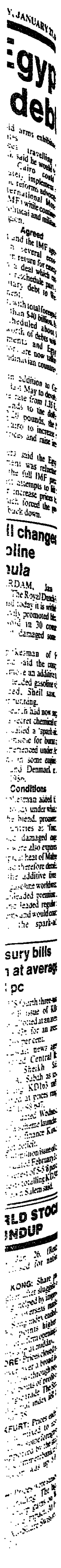
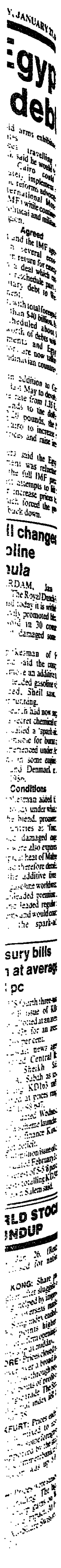
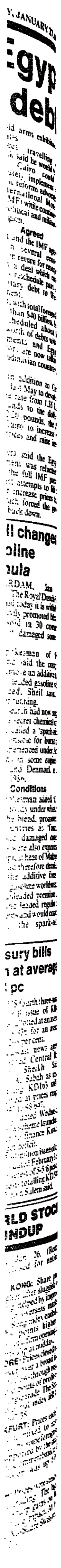
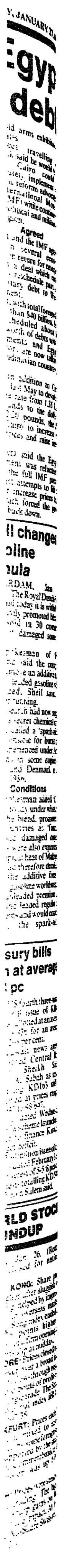
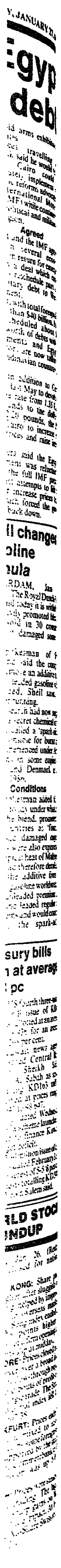
for note

HONGKONG: Share p- after other slugs- dropped by imp- interests mid- Some minor high- points higher- firm operat- at midday.

DRE: Prices closed- over a broad b- cents of profit- trade. The 20- index fell.

ALFURT: Prices end- wanted to se- some surge- supported by se- interest rates up 71

are close to 20- 1982. The be- 1982 gains 30- 1982 prices. At 1982's double.

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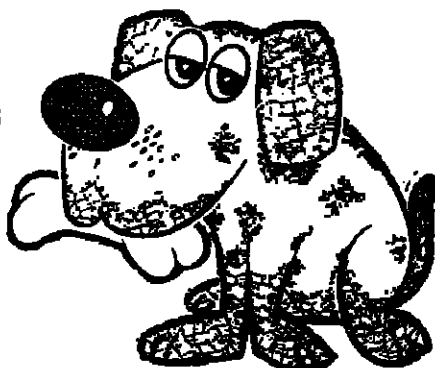
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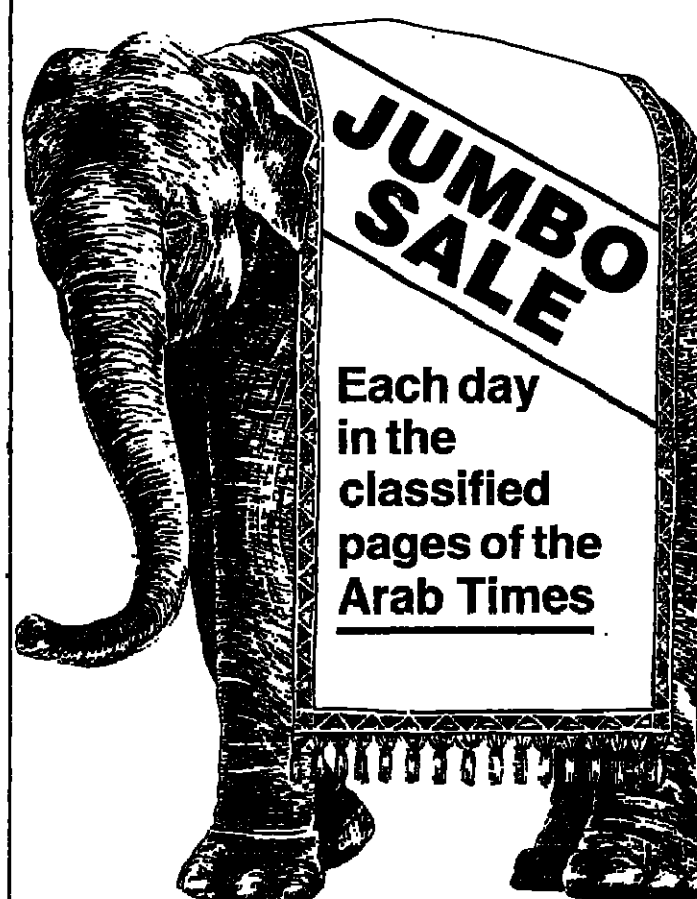
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SPORTS

Early tremor fails to halt Redskins' practice

SAN DIEGO, Jan 26, (Reuters): In their first full day in San Diego yesterday, the Super Bowl-bound Washington Redskins were initiated in typical California style — being nudged awake by a pre-dawn earthquake.

The tremor was not the Denver Broncos' deploring rather it was a quake that registered 5.0 on the Richter Scale with an epicenter 4.5 miles east of Escondido, Mexico. The tremor was felt in San Diego and surrounding areas with no damage or injuries reported.

The Redskins held a short practice session later in the afternoon that was closed to the more than 2,000 media in town to cover Super Bowl XXXII.

Warned

Washington coach Joe Gibbs later told a news conference that he had imposed a midnight curfew on his NFL team.

"After hours, these guys can do whatever they want to do. I want them to have good time but they better be in at bedcheck," warned Gibbs, who said they would face a fine if they did not meet the deadline.

"It was a good workout everybody practised — there were no injuries," said Gibbs who said he planned to start wide receiver Art Monk, who missed the playoffs and final two games of the regular season with a sprained knee.

Gibbs said his team has already worked on 60-70 per cent of its first, second and third-down plays during practice last week at their Virginia Training Complex.

"People ask me how the game will go, but you never know," said Gibbs.

Gibbs said they may use what is called a "spy" technique when it came to covering mobile Denver quarterback John Elway.

"I don't think you can look to shut this guy down. I've seen the best of players on him and you just can't catch him," he said.

During

The spy defence, Gibbs explained, is "one guy on defence who just watches Elway if he tries to run — in other words, his assignment is to follow Elway."

"But there is a price to pay and that leaves us one less guy rushing the quarterback," Gibbs added.

"Broncos and Redskins won't be the only ones scrapping for recognition in the Super Bowl."

So will a few dozen advertisers, who network sources say paid as much as a record \$1.35 million per minute of commercial time during the television broadcast of the National Football League's championship game.

The contest usually attracts one of the year's biggest television audiences, which marketers cite as justification for spending all that money.

"It has the ambience of a spectacular," said David Martin, a spokesman for Stroh Brewing Co. of Detroit. "It's a showcase," said John J. Flieder, a marketing executive for Allstate Insurance Companies of Northbrook, Illinois.

Both companies have bought time on the ABC network broadcast of this year's game.

The high price of commercial time often drives companies to press their advertisers to come up with something memorable to make the spending worthwhile.

Apple Computer Inc., Burger King and the Budweiser Beer Brewery are among this year's main advertisers.

So are Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola from the soft-drink industry.

Coca-Cola has an elaborate new Diet Coke commercial.

Pepsi said it hasn't decided yet which of its new celebrity-filled commercials it plans to air in the 90 seconds of commercial time it purchased. Pepsi plans to have its name on a blimp over the playing field in San Diego.

Task

Munir of Falcon then accounted for Salim and Aslam was run out for 10. To reduce Deccan Green to 38 for two in six overs. Arun then joined Zulqarnain, who was in an attacking mood, and both of them took the Falcon bowlers to task. Zulqarnain, in particular, was more severe on all the bowlers on his way to 102. He hit five sixes and six fours.

JAZZ BRUSH ASIDE CAVALIERS

Malone takes Bullets over 76ers



Bucks' John Lucas (centre) goes for a shot as Warriors' Winston Garland reaches for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

LANDOVER, Maryland, Jan 26, (AP): Moses Malone scored 26 points and Bernard King added 22 last night as Washington defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 118-117 in overtime. The victory was the seventh straight at home for the Bullets since Wes Unseld took over as coach and their third in a week over Philadelphia.

After Gerald Henderson's 3-point shot gave Philadelphia a 114-113 lead, Malone then grabbed a rebound and dunked the ball with 23 seconds to play in the extra period. Mike Gminski missed two short jumpers, and the second was rebounded by Bernard King, who was fouled. King made two free throws.

Malone added another free throw with 10 seconds left to give Washington a 118-114 lead before Henderson hit his second 3-point shot of the overtime period for the final margin.

Jazz 119, Cavaliers 96

Utah reserve Ricky Green scored the NBA's 5-millionth point at the end of the third period and the Jazz went on to defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-96. Green's Milestone came on a 3-point shot, giving the Jazz an 92-87 lead. His basket was the 5,000,001th point since the NBA began play in the 1946.

Before the fourth period began, there was a ceremony and Green autographed the ball, which will go to the basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Karl Malone paced the winners with 36 points, while John Stockton had 20 points and 13 assists.

Leading 52-51 at halftime, Malone and Stockton scored 10 points apiece as Utah outscored the Cavaliers 90-7 in the opening 9:36 of the third quarter. Brad Daugherty, Mark Price

and Mark West scored 14 points each for Cleveland.

Bucks 108, Warriors 105
Paul Pressey game Milwaukee the lead with 26 seconds remaining on a driving layup and the Bucks scored the game's final seven points to pull out a 108-105 victory over Golden State.

Sidney Moncrief added two free throws for Milwaukee with five seconds left and the Warriors threw away the inbound pass following the second foul shot to assure the Bucks' victory.

Milwaukee broke a three-game losing streak, its longest of the season.

The Warriors held a 105-101 lead with 59 seconds remaining after Rod Higgins scored. Milwaukee cut the lead to 105-104 on Terry Cummings' jumper and Jack Sikma added a free throw.

Cummings led Milwaukee with 25 points. Jerome Whitehead topped the Warriors' scoring with a season-high 19 points.

Irish pick new flanker for French game

DUBLIN, Ireland, Jan 26, (AP): Ireland made only one change today to the team that beat Scotland for its next Five Nations Championship Rugby Union clash, against France in Paris on Feb 20.

Back row forward Don Whittle, of Bangor, wins his first cap at the expense of Garyowen's Willie Sexton, who is named among the replacements.

Whittle comes in at Blindside, with Philip Matthews moving to open side.

A 27-year-old schoolteacher from Newtownards, Whittle is 6 ft 3 ins tall and weighs almost 238 pounds. He has made a rapid rise to international status and after

playing for Ulster this season was named as a replacement for the first time against Scotland.

Other changes were expected, but the selectors decided to keep faith with a side that won comfortably against the Scots in Dublin on Jan 16.

Philip Danaher has retained his place at full back. The Lansdowne player had a poor first half against Scotland, but improved in the second period.

John Fitzgerald, the Young Munster prop, who was the other new cap against Scotland, has also held on to his place despite competition from Lansdowne's Tom Clancy, who is bigger and

reckoned to be more mobile.

Three of the players in the team are on the injured list, but are expected to be fit to face France.

Right wing Trevor Ringland, taken off against Scotland with damaged neck muscles and ligaments, Phil Matthews, who broke his nose in the match, and lock Willie Anderson (knee injury), are all recovering.

Sexton damaged Achilles tendon muscles playing for his club at the weekend but the injury is not as extensive as first thought.

Irish team:
Philip Danaher (Lansdowne), Trevor Ringland (Ballymena), Brendan Mullin (Blackrock),

Michael Kiernan (Dolphin), Keith Crossan (Instonians), Paul Dean (St Marys), Michael Bradley (Cork Constitution), John Fitzgerald (Young Munster), Terry Kingston (Dolphin), Desmond Fitzgerald (Lansdowne), Donal Lenihan (Cork Constitution, capt), Willie Anderson (Dungannon), Don Whittle (Bangor), Michael Gibson (London Irish), Phil Matthews (Wanderers).

Replacements: Jim McCoy (Bangor), John McDonald (Malone), Willie Sexton (Garryowen), Leslie Ahearne (Dolphin), Ralph Keyes (Cork Constitution), Hugo MacNeill (London Irish).

England rugby team given another chance

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): England Rugby Union selectors today stuck with the players who lost 10-9 to France earlier this month when they named an unchanged side for the next Five Nations international match against Wales at Twickenham on Feb 6.

The temptation to make changes was resisted, despite the lack of tries that has become a feature of England's recent matches.

The England display in Paris was the 13th time in the last 21 championship games that it has failed to cross the opponents' line.

But because the English dominated the heavily favoured French throughout the game, losing in the closing stages, the selectors gave the same team another chance.

However, the introduction of wing Chris Oti and centres Bryan Barley and Simon Halliday among the replacements was regarded as a solid hint by the selectors to the present three-quarters. Kevin Simms and Wil Carling.

Certain

Unless there is more penetration against Wales, which will be starting its campaign at Twickenham, changes seem certain for the Scotland match in March.

The team against Wales will be as follows:

Jon Webb (Bristol), Mike Harrison (Wakefield, capt.), Will Carling (Durham University and Harlequins), Kevin Simms (Warrs), Rory Underwood (Leicester), Les Cusworth (Leicester), Nigel Melville (Warrs), Paul Reddall (Warrs), Brian Moore (Nottingham), Jeff Probyn (Warrs), Wade Dooley (Flyde), John Orwin (Bedford), Mike Skinner (Harlequins), Dean Richards (Leicester), Peter Winterbottom (Headingley).

England manager Geoff Cooke said: "We took our time during the selection meeting reflecting on the fact that we did lose (to France) despite a very good performance. We considered that we have made substantial progress and that this side is capable of further improvement."

Samaranch speaks against drug abuse

PARIS, Jan 26, (Reuters): International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch has championed a European crusade against drug abuse in sport.

Samaranch, addressing an unprecedented "European symposium on doping," today, said coaches and doctors could be more to blame than athletes in doping abuse cases.

"The athletes are not the guilty ones. The guilty ones are those who surround the athletes, though not all of them," he added.

Health

He said the IOC applied strict anti-doping controls and 13 participants had been suspended at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. "We must protect the health of the athletes. We can't permit cheating," he said.

Christian Bergelin, French Secretary of State for Sports, and Prince Alexandre de Merode, Belgian IOC vice-president and president of the Olympic Committee's medical commission, chaired the symposium, which featured top-level athletes, sports medicine authorities, sports administrators and members of the European Council and Parliament.

Khaosai retains WBA crown

BANGKOK, Jan 26, (Reuters): Khaosai Galaxy of Thailand retained his World Boxing Association junior bantamweight title by beating his compatriot Kongtoranee Payakarun on points today in the hardest fight of his four-year reign.

It was the first time the big-punching southpaw champion had been taken the distance after seven previous defenses.

After 12 rounds of chasing the elusive challenger he looked exhausted and as relieved as any of the fans packed into Bangkok's Lumpini stadium when the result was announced. All three

judges scored him clearly ahead. The pattern was established in the opening round with the bullish, eager Khaosai walking, sometimes even running, round the ring trying to nail down Kongtoranee as he weaved, backed off and covered up, occasionally flicking out counter punches.

Khaosai grew ever more frustrated as all attempts to land his lethal left failed. He even took a mandatory eight count in the fifth when he slipped overpulling away from a right throw by the challenger as they broke from a clinch.

15-round rule to stay

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): The International Boxing Federation will insist that two of its title fights involving British boxers set for next month be held over 15 rounds.

The IBF, based in the United States, told the British Boxing Board of Control that it had found no medical evidence to support limiting the length of championship fights to 12 rounds.

Met

IBF president Robert Lee wrote to John Morris, secretary of the BBBC, saying that the situation would be reviewed with medical experts in July. Lee and

Morris met earlier this month in London and Lee promised to review documents presented by the British board.

Morris said the board was nearing the end of its discussions with the IBF.

"We are trying to avoid confrontation, but the time for talking will run out soon," he said.

The British board has tried to get the IBF to go along with the other two major worldwide sanctioning bodies of boxing, the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association, in cutting title fights to 12 rounds. It has refused to sanction longer fights.

QMCC cruise past Brothers



Raza: scored 55

QUAID-E-MILLAT Cricket Club (QMCC) kept their hopes for the Brad Trophy alive with a nine-wicket win over Brothers Eleven at the EPI ground on Friday morning.

Batting first, Brothers were restricted to only 96 runs in 27 overs and they lost nine wickets. Ansar and Jamil took three wickets each. Qamar supported them well with two. Masud was the top bowler with 34.

In reply, QMCC got the required runs for the loss of only one wicket. Raza, who is in good form this season, hammered 55 runs. Ishfaq was the only QMCC casualty with 10. Dilawer remained unbeaten on 26.

ACC defeat Meriden

ACC beat Meriden by 60 runs in a friendly match at the Hilton grounds on Friday.

ACC, batting first, scored 164 in 30 overs. Skipper Gulab was the highest scorer for his team with 77 and was ably supported by wicket-keeper Ram who scored 20.

Meriden, in reply, ran into some hostile bowling from Lucas and were all out for 104. Lucas took seven wickets for 20 runs, including a hat-trick.

Swedish rally

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters): Vauxhall cars will return to the World Rally Championship after a break of seven years when Briton Malcolm Wilson leads a team in the Swedish Motor Rally starting on February 4.

Wilson told reporters he would contest several Europe-based rounds of this year's championship in an Astra 2.0 GTE.

England will play both off-spinners, says Gatting

SYDNEY, Jan 26, (Reuters): England off-spinners John Embury and Eddie Hemmings will both play in the biennial cricket Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground starting on Friday, England captain Mike Gatting said today.

Gatting told reporters after his side arrived from New Zealand that England would play both off-spinners at a ground which has favoured spin bowling in recent years.

Thrashed

The England skipper said he respected the Australians, who beat New Zealand 1-0 in their recent three-match Test series and thrashed the same opponents in the World Series Cup one-day finals.

"They've been improving all the time since we were here last summer and when you're winning that obviously gives you a great boost," Gatting said.

Meanwhile England cricket official today rejected an offer by ace all-rounder Ian Botham to make himself available for the biennial Test.

Botham, who declared himself unavailable for the England tour of Australia and New Zealand and is playing for the Queensland state side in the Australian Domestic Sheffield Shield competition, made his offer after England pace bowler Phillip de



Botham: turned down

Freitas suffered an Achilles tendon strain.

"All they have to do is pick up the phone," Botham told reporters.

England manager Peter Lush said in Auckland there was no intention of approaching Botham.

"We have our touring party here. They are doing their job," Lush said. "It's from these people we will pick the team for the Test."

The England team was to leave New Zealand later today en route to Sydney for the one-off Test.

Everton hold Wednesday

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): The English FA Cup third round tie between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday failed to produce a winner at the third attempt yesterday when the sides again drew 1-1.

Everton, with home advantage in the second replay, at last looked to have booked a fourth round home match against Second Division Middlesbrough on Saturday when Trevor Steven scored after 58 minutes.

But Wednesday, its season dependent upon FA Cup success, sent the game into extra time when Lee Chapman scored a dramatic equaliser five minutes from the end of the regulation 90 minutes.

Everton, the better side during normal time, found visiting goalkeeper Martin Hodge in superb form.

Hodge made two superb saves

after Steven had scored to prevent the hosts wrapping up the match, but once Wednesday had levelled, it dominated the additional 30-minute period.

The teams try again at Sheffield tomorrow.

In another third round, second replay, Manchester City won 3-0 at Huddersfield in an all-Second Division battle.

After a goalless first half, City stepped up the pressure and scored three times to secure a visit to Blackpool of Division Three on Saturday.

Andy Hinchcliffe broke the deadlock with a perfectly struck angled shot from 20 yards. City made virtually sure of victory in the 76th minute when Paul Simpson crossed to the far post for David White to tap the ball home from close range for his 13th goal of the season. Striker Imre Striker Varadi netted in the final minute.

Munoz keeps faith with old guard for friendly

VALENCIA, Spain, Jan 26, (Reuters): Spanish coach Miguel Munoz has kept faith with his old hands for a friendly against East Germany tomorrow which kicks off his team's last phase of preparation for the European Championship finals.

Injuries have forced Munoz to leave out Real Madrid stars Emilio Butragueno and Rafael Gordillo but he has included only one uncapped player — Real Sociedad defender Luis Lopez Rekarte — in the squad for the first friendly against East Germany in eight years.

East German coach Bernd Stang, his eyes already on the 1990 World Cup, has brought over a team with an average age of 24 from an international tournament in the Canary Islands where they lost to both Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

Stang may have to do without promising forward Andreas Thom who injured his leg in the tournament and has been unable to train for several days.

Munoz has dropped midfielder Ramon Caldera but kept goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who despite having a bad season with Barcelona, has always produced good form in international.

Baber's century takes Evergreen into final

BABER, continuing his run of good scores, hammered Siddique Cricket Club for 145 and enabled Evergreen to enter the final of Kuwait Trophy at Sabah Al Salem Area (NC) ground on Friday.

Evergreen, after winning the toss, batted first but met an immediate setback when their top batsman Ejaz failed with the bat for the first time this season and gave a return catch to Asif after scoring only six.

Strike

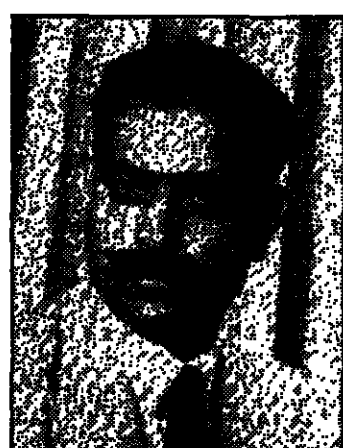
This brought Razzak to join Baber, who was batting in his usual cavalier fashion by hitting all bowlers to all parts of the ground. Razzak was slow in the beginning, giving most of the strike to Baber but later on he also started to punish Siddique bowlers with ease. The two put on 192 runs for the second wicket partnership in only 19 overs which was broken at 226 when Razzak was caught at long-on boundary for 66 which included four sixes.

Baber's knock ended at 234 when he was caught behind for 145. He hit seven sixes and 14 fours in a magnificent display of powerful hitting. Shabbir also hit two sixes and four boundaries in his unbeaten knock of 43.

Asif Ali was 12 n.o. when the time was called by the umpires after 28 overs and Evergreen total a mammoth 284 for three.

For Siddique Club, Zafar, Asif and Shahid Pervaiz managed to take one wicket each.

Siddique Cricket Club, having very little chance of winning



Baber: hit 145

made a cautious but confident start when their openers Zafar and Mehmoor put on 59 runs for the first wicket before the former was run out for 26.

Jawad Masood, keeping a good line and length produced a devastating spell of swing bowling and ran through the middle order batting line-up. He took four wickets after giving away only 20 runs in his six overs. Mehmoor (30), Khalid (22), Asif (22 retired) and Shahid R. (25 n.o.) were the only batsmen who could get into double figures.

Allotted

Siddique Club could score only 162 for eight in their allotted 28 overs thus yielding the match to Evergreen by 122 runs.

Rafique Butt and Razzak were the other bowlers who took one wicket each after giving away 40 and seven runs respectively.

Starlite sail into Kifco Trophy final

STARLITE reached the final of the Kifco Trophy cricket tournament with a seven-wicket victory over Bright Star at the Sabah Al Salem Area (KCL) ground on Friday.

Bright Star, after winning the toss, batted first and opened their innings through Aslam and Mohammed Ali. Both of them played cautiously and both of them took the score to 57 in 11 overs before Mohammed Ali was caught by Sohail off Zia for 23.

Arun joined Aslam and both of them put on 60 runs for the second wicket before the latter was bowled by Ifthikhar for 71. Soon afterwards, Arun was stumped by Mansoor Zahir off Sohail. After Salim was run out for 20, Bright Star managed to reach 173 for the loss of five wickets in 27 overs.

Starlite, chasing a modest total, opened their innings through Iqbal Rizvi and Mansoor Zahir. Both the openers showed tremendous form and put on 88 runs for the first wicket in 11 overs before Iqbal Rizvi was adjudged leg before wicket for 56. Iqbal hit four sixes and five fours.

Mansoor was out at 104 after scoring 28. Zia and Qayyum guided their team to victory. Qayyum was out for 24 while Zia remained unbeaten on 43 as Starlite got the required runs with 2-3 overs and seven wickets to spare.

Starlite will meet Evergreen in the final which will be played in March.

Deccan Green and Unity score wins

DECCAN GREEN beat Falcon by 28 runs while Unity defeated Starlite on a better run-rate in the Air Lanka Cricket League matches in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

In the first match, Deccan Green won the toss and elected to bat. They opened their innings through Salim and Zulqarnain, who put on 25 runs in the first four overs.

Task

Munir of Falcon then accounted for Salim and Aslam was run out for 10. To reduce Deccan Green to 38 for two in six overs. Arun then joined Zulqarnain, who was in an attacking mood, and both of them took the Falcon bowlers to task. Zulqarnain, in particular, was more severe on all the bowlers on his way to 102. He hit five sixes and six fours.



Zulqarnain: slammed 102

Arun, playing second fiddle, provided Zulqarnain with adequate support and went on to score an unbeaten 89. Arun and

Zulqarnain put on 199 runs for the third wicket before being separated by Ayoub. By the end of the 24 allotted overs Deccan Green reached 211 for the loss of only four wickets.

Unperturbed by this daunting task, Falcon's skipper Zahid and Sher Afzal gave their side an equally solid start getting 99 in only 10 overs with Zahid overtaking his partner in grand style. Such was Zahid's dominance that when the total reached 90 he had scored 79 of these runs, with five sixes and seven fours.

Saeed provided the much needed breakthrough when he dismissed both the openers reducing Falcon to 150 for 2 in 19 overs. With the dismissal of Amin for 18, the innings came under pressure and Falcon could manage only 183 for 5.

The match between Starlite and Unity was just a formality as both teams had already qualified for the finals. Starlite scored 156 for seven in 24 overs. Arif hit (49), Qayyum (42) and Sohail scored a quick 24 with two sixes.

Lewis of Unity tormented the Starlite batsmen, after having seen two dropped catches of his bowling, and registered fine bowling figures of 3 for 20 in five overs.

Required

Unity achieved a morale boosting victory and got the required runs through Ejaz (38) and Shabbir 51.

Useful contributions from the other batsmen saw Unity reach 143 for 6 in 22 overs compared to Starlite's 139 for 5 when time was called by the two umpires.

SPORTS

Budd determined to compete in Auckland race

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters): Britain's South African-born runner Zola Budd said today she was determined to try for her third World Cross Country title in Auckland, New Zealand, in March despite the threat of anti-apartheid demonstrators.

Budd, 21, told a news conference she was not worried about demonstrators.

"I'll face that when I come to it," she said. "But I'm used to demonstrators by now and it is a problem for the organisers, not for me."

Budd said she would decide after Auckland whether to run the 3,000 or 10,000 metres at the Seoul Olympics and said she did not know if she would compete in the Auckland Games in 1990.

Budd was banned from the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh because she had not spent enough time in Britain.

"My family live in South Africa and I will continue to visit them," Budd said. "I also have to see the doctor who has been treating me for my injury problems in South Africa."

Lendl triumphs

HONG KONG, Jan 26, (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl, beaten in the Australian Open semifinals last week, bounced back with a 6-4-6-1 win over American Tim Mayotte in an exhibition tennis match here today.

MALAYSIANS SUBDUED DETERMINED KUWAITIS

Four squash teams qualify for final round

PAKISTAN, Singapore, Jordan and Malaysia reached the final round of the team event yesterday at the 4th Asian Squash Championship being held in Kuwait.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Hong Kong and India, who finished second in their groups, were playing against each other late last night to decide the final qualifier for the final round.

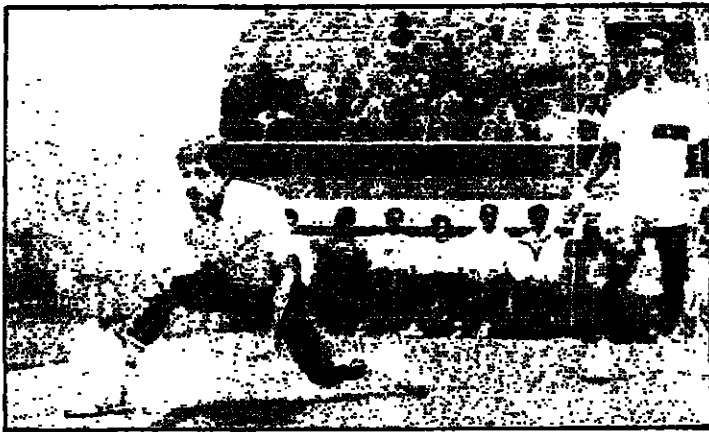
In the final round, the five teams will be playing each other on a League basis to decide the champion.

Indication

Kuwait lost 3-0 to Malaysia yesterday but the score is no indication of the fight put up by the Kuwaiti players in an effort to take their team into the next round.

In the first match, Kuwait's Adel Al Gharib stretched Chris Chan to five sets. Adel lost the first set 9-2 but came back strongly in the second to surprise his opponent with a 9-7 victory. Adel carried on with the same game in the third set which he won 9-6.

Chan, realising that the game was getting out of hand, fought back to take the next two sets 9-7-9-7. Both the players had the spectators on the edge of their seats as they fought for every point.



Tareq (left) stretches forward to retrieve a shot.

In the second game, Tareq Al Uwaish lost by three straight sets to Patrick. But the 9-7 10-8 10-8 victory achieved by the Malaysian did not come easily as Tareq stayed with him throughout the match. The match saw some brilliant play by both the players.

Expected

The last Kuwaiti to lose was Fakher Al Sayed, who took Patrick to four sets. Patrick won the game 9-6 10-8 8-10 9-2. The first three sets were evenly fought and it was only in the fourth set that Patrick found things relatively easy.

Jordan qualified for the final

round with a 2-1 victory over India. In the first match Eyad Kamal beat Indian Azora 9-7-9-1 9-3. Jordanian Hamed Al Said took the second game 9-7-9-7-9-7 from Daruwalla while the only Indian victory was Nargit Singh, who beat Nedal 8-10-9-2-9-4 9-0.

Pakistan did not play yesterday as they had already qualified for the next round with two victories on Monday.

Singapore, as expected, took its place among the finalists with a 3-0 victory over Hong Kong. Zainul Abedin beat Tony 9-3-9-0 3-9 9-5. Antony crushed Victor 9-2 9-3 9-3 and Heng defeated Chua 9-6-9-4 9-4.



Fakher (right) hits a backhand shot.

In the other matches played yesterday Iraq beat Sri Lanka 2-1 and Bahrain trounced Lebanon 3-0.

Kuwait were playing India late night while Bahrain were pitted against Hong Kong. Today Kuwait met Hong Kong in the morning and Bahrain in the evening. The other two matches see Bahrain against India in the morning and Hong Kong against India in the evening.

The former secretary of the Kuwait Tennis Federation, Yacoub Al Hussaini, yesterday held a luncheon for the Pakistani delegation at his home. Al Hussaini is an old friend of most of the Pakistani players.

The Pakistani coach of the Kuwait team, Fahim Gul, also held a dinner for the Pakistani team at his house.

It was revealed yesterday that the Pakistani squad, based on Jahangir Khan, Qamar Zaman, Umer Hayat and Maqsood Ahmed, are keeping fit by running at least seven kilometres everyday. They run from the Regency Palace Hotel to the Hawalli governorate and back every morning to keep their bodies in shape for this championship.

The coach of the Pakistani team, Umer Zadah, yesterday predicted that Jahangir would beat the world champion, Jan-

sher Khan, in their next meeting. Jahangir beat Jahangir seven times consecutively last year to snatch the World No. 1 ranking away from Jahangir for the first time in nearly six years.

Umer was of the opinion that Jahangir had lost his earlier matches to Jahangir because he had not been physically fit. Umer believes that Jahangir has once again regained the form which kept him in a class of his own and would be able to defeat Jahangir.

Meanwhile, 20 certificates were given by the Asian Squash Federation to the Referees Committee. The committee will name the officials to whom these certificates will be given for the performance at the championship.

Praised

The president of the International Squash Federation, Ronnie Sinclair, is due to leave Kuwait today for London after witnessing some of the matches of the championship. Sinclair praised the organisation of the present championship by the Kuwait officials.

The president of the Asian Squash Federation, Dr Edward Jacob, left Kuwait for Singapore yesterday. He witnessed the opening of the championship and most of the matches of the singles event.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kuwaiti fencer

LONDON, Jan 26, (Kuna): Kuwaiti student, Mohammad Ali Al Moe'men, has won the fencing individual event at the England Universities Championships. Al Moe'men studies electronic engineering at a London college. The fencing championships were held in Bath City of West England, within the framework of athletic games of English universities.

Mark Dennis

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters): Mark Dennis, who has the worst disciplinary record in the English League, failed in his appeal against a 53-day ban when he appeared before a Football Association appeal committee yesterday.

Black golfers

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 26, (Reuters): Black golfers, protesting over poor facilities for non-white players, boycotted the five remaining tournaments on South Africa's Sunshine circuit. "We need immediate changes before we can consider playing," a spokesman for the players said yesterday.

Yacht race

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 26, (Reuters): Pal Cayard of the United States won his second consecutive race yesterday at the star class World Yachting Championship. Cayard, with crewman Steve Erickson, edged past Roberto Ferrarese of Italy in the final minutes of the race amid stiff winds and choppy waters on the River Plate off the shores of the Argentine capital.

Tim Witherspoon

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): American Tim Witherspoon, the former world heavyweight boxing champion who successfully defended his title against Britain's Frank Bruno 18 months ago, returns to this country for a non-title fight on Feb 17, it was announced yesterday. Witherspoon, ranked No 8 by the World Boxing Association and No. 9 by the World Boxing Council, will top the bill at London's York Hall against Mexican national champion Maricio Villegas.

Steroid smuggling

OSLO, Jan 26, (Reuters): Norway's Olympic Committee put new pressure on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) today to rule on whether Soviet speed skater Nikolai Gulyayev should be banned from the Winter Games for alleged steroid smuggling.

Irish team

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 26, (AP): The Irish team, including its world champion triple of Stan Espie, Sammy Allen and Jim Baker, arrived today for World Bowls 1988 and were soon at practice. Baker and Espie played in New Zealand in the Test series in 1985.

Virginia Slims

MAINZ, West Germany, Jan 26, (AP): Organisers cancelled a Virginia Slims women's tournament today after its main attraction, Steffi Graf of West Germany, pulled out. The Mainz tournament was scheduled Feb 1-7.

Cup star

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 26, (UPI): Brazilian World Cup star Josimar, 25, might be on his way to Britain to play for Scottish Premier Division Dundee United. Botafogo vice-president Ennil Pinheiro said.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Jan 26, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday (only games scheduled): Edmonton Oilers 6 Pittsburgh Penguins 4; Calgary Flames 11 Toronto Maple Leafs 3; Buffalo Sabres 5 New Jersey Devils 2.

Nystrom injury worries Swedish team selectors

STOCKHOLM, Jan 26, (Reuters): Davis Cup champions Sweden will be forced to field a weakened squad when they begin their title defence next Friday in a first round tennis tie against New Zealand.

Team captain Hasse Olsson, set to announce a team on Thursday, has already received apologies from Mats Wilander, taking a six-week break after his Australian Open victory against Pat Cash in Melbourne on Sunday.

Wilander's doubles partner Joakim Nystrom, recovering from a bout of flu which kept him from Melbourne, is now on the doubtful list because of a chest injury, Olsson said.

Nystrom played his first tennis for a month yesterday against compatriot Magnus Gustafsson, losing a training match 6-2 6-1. "I knew he would be rusty after a month's break. If he could play a few times he would be all right, but the pain in his chest means he still has to rest," Olsson said.

Despite the selection headaches, Sweden is still hot favourite to take the Davis Cup fixture against New Zealand at Gavle, eastern Sweden.

Even without Wilander and Nystrom, Olsson has the talents of world number two Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd to call upon, Jonas Svensson and Peter Lundgren are likely to take the other two berths.

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Short wins again to seize 2-0 lead

SAINT JOHN, New Brunswick, Jan 26, (AP): English grandmaster Nigel Short took a commanding 2-0 lead in his World Chess Championship candidates match with Gyula Sax of Hungary after scoring a 45 move victory yesterday.

Grandmaster Jonathan Speelman notched a second English victory when he defeated Yasser Seirawan, the United States, top player, to seize the lead in their six-game duel.

Contests

The winner of the candidates series will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov for his title in 1990.

The victors in the seven matches played here will compete in a final knockout series of contests at a later date to decide the challenger.

Playing with the disadvantage of the black pieces, Short, 22, sacrificed a pawn in the opening to use his queen to deeply pierce Sax's defenses.

Already trailing in the match after his first round loss, Sax appeared restless.

After falling dramatically short of time, Sax blundered and allowed his king to be surrounded.

"The position was about equal, but impatience finally got

the better of him," Short said after the game.

Playing white, Seirawan gained a small edge from the opening, but played too aggressively in a complicated middle-game position.

Seirawan, 27, from Seattle, sacrificed a rook for a bishop to gain a dangerous attack against Speelman's king, but the 31-year-old Londoner beat back the assault to reach a winning end-game position.

Move

With four games remaining, Speelman leads 1.5-0.5.

Soviet grandmaster Andrei Sokolov squeezed a victory

against Canada's Kevin Spraggett to move into a 1.5-0.5 in their face-off.

Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, the third ranked player in the world drew with Valery Salov of the Soviet Union to leave their match tied at 1-1.

The games between Rafael Vaganian of the Soviet Union and Hungary's Lajos Portisch and between Jan Elmlist and Artur Tusupov, both Soviets were also drawn.

Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi, who now plays for Switzerland, adjourned with a small end game edge against Johann Hjartarson of Iceland.

Piggott collapses in prison

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuters): Former champion jockey Lester Piggott, serving a three-year prison sentence for tax fraud, collapsed in his cell yesterday and was taken to hospital, officials said.

The incident at Highpoint prison near Newmarket, 50 miles north of London, occurred amid news that 52-year-old Piggott is facing further tax investigation. He was unconscious when admitted to Bury St Edmunds Hospital but "made a quick and spontaneous recovery," hospital manager Robert Jones said.

Jones denied that Piggott had been assaulted and added doctors were still trying to establish

the cause of his condition. He was later transferred to the prison hospital in Norwich, west England.

In October, Piggott pleaded guilty to nine charges of failing to declare income and one charge of defrauding customs and excise.

An inland revenue spokesman said the case was not closed. "It was made clear in court that we had only then gone up to 1984. The investigation is continuing."

Piggott has repaid £3 million (\$5.3 million) in tax and interest for the years up to 1984 when he ended his career as an active rider after chalking up a record 5,000 victories.

The new investigation will be

looking into Piggott's financial dealings during his later years as a trainer.

The three months in a two-man cell have been troublesome for one of the country's greatest sporting heroes. Piggott is an aloof man suffering from a speech defect and partial deafness. He was described by his lawyer as of limited intellectual capacity outside the racing track.

His fellow inmates complained that Piggott had been given preferential treatment and earlier this month, he was put under special guard after being hit over the head with a racquet during a badminton match among prisoners.

Phelps rallies to defeat Antonopolis

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 26, (AP): Third-seeded American Terry Phelps rallied today to score a 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 second-round victory over compatriot Lea Antonopolis in the \$50,000 International Tennis Tournament.

Phelps, 24, was one of six seeds to advance in the 56-draw outdoor hardcourt event, which comprises part of the Virginia Slims series.

She was beaten by compatriot Gretchen Magers last year in the final.

Defending champion Magers advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Sybille Noix-Chateau of France.

Another French player, Marie-Cristine Calleja, caused the only upset of the second-day of the tournament, downing 14th seeded Australian Louise Field 6-3, 7-6 (7-0) in a first-round match.

In other first-round action, Susan Mascarin of the United States, the 11th seed, defeated fellow American Vicki Nelson-Dunbar 6-2, 6-2.

The top eight seeds received first-round byes.

Second-round winners included eighth seeded Belgian teenager Anne Devries and her 12th seeded compatriot Sandra Wasserman.

Devries, 17, downed Annabel Croft of Britain 6-4, 6-1, while Wasserman, also 17, beat American Kim Steinmetz 7-6 (7-1), 6-3.

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